

Press Release



Fiona MacDonald Morphology

27 March – 2 May 2009
Tue – Sat 11am to 7pm
Private view: Thursday 26 March 6-9pm

Looking at the natural world through Fiona Macdonald's eyes is a unique experience, as she zooms in on an organism or structure, or takes the wider space view. Images are set against horizons of indeterminable scale and almost science fictional hue, while shifts in scale, colour, or a flip of the axis turn one thing into another.

Morphology is the study of the form or shape of an organism, but also suggests the idea of one thing morphing into another, and indeed our sense of perspective is constantly challenged in this dynamic exhibition of new painting and sculpture.

Sculptural pieces range from baroque table-top and hanging ceramics, arranged on and around a surreal medley of antique and junk furniture, to floor-based works, fashioned from tree branches and rococo furniture, that act as sculptural 'bodies' for the ceramics. The latter hover between arcane display system and uncanny, animalistic totem. In many works an uncertain presence lurks, suggestive of the ancient animistic spirits that were believed to inhabit all organic life, or of the magical properties of resemblance inherent in early folkloric and medicinal thinking.

The works connect and reconnect through colour and form. An almost Klein blue bleeds into several paintings, serving in one as a barely believable sky, reappearing as the electric veins of a biomorphic structure in another. Macdonald explores forms that seem to be part of the same family, yet their titles reveal very different sources – a morel mushroom - a hanging basket of summer flowers - a white blood cell - a shower puff.

At the heart of the exhibition, and key to understanding Macdonald's tangents, are a series of modest scale, quietly intense canvases, which remain ambiguous or more formally abstract, with raised fields of monochrome oil situating the animal/fungal/vegetal forms in an indeterminate interior (inside a body, or a cell) or in abstract space. In one piece, interlocking planes of pinkish-greys describe an architectural forest, the soft geometry interrupted by blobs of glittery watercolour that both are, and are not, foliage. Behind MacDonald's researches into organic form and evolutionary development lies the act and language of painting as the driving force of the work.

For further details and images contact Edward Cutler edward@maddoxarts.com

Fiona MacDonald lives and works in London. Solo exhibitions to date include: Anthropoflora, Long & Ryle, London (2007) and Habitat, Phoenix, Brighton (2006). Group Shows include: Dirty Nature, Standpoint Gallery; Celeste Art Prize, London and Edinburgh; Intervention, Fieldgate Gallery, all 2007. MacDonald studied at Leeds Metropolitan and Chelsea College of Art.

Maddox Arts was established in October 2007 to run a varied programme of self and guest-curated shows profiling emerging and established international artists. Shows to date include: Artists Anonymous, Simon Hitchens, Li Bo, Magdalena Fernandez, Peter Griffin, Gordon Cheung, Mat Collishaw and Heli Rekula. Gallery director Mario Palencia is keen to showcase the work of artists who are largely unrepresented in commercial galleries outside of their own countries.

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