

SUITE

STUDIO GROUP

Autumn 2007

With the summer behind us and the nights drawing in, do not fear, we have a number of exhibitions coming up that will brighten your days and put a smile on your face!

Not only that, but there is also the annual **Suite Open Studios** to look forward to. It is an event not to be missed so put it in your diary now while you remember; 24th & 25th November. Mmmmm... just think of all those mince pies!!!!

EXHIBITIONS



Andrew Bracey
Snowflake



Susie MacMurray
Catch



Samantha Donnelly
Triangle



Rosie Miller and Jonathan Carson
The Exquisite Fold

First up is **Andrew Bracey** who is taking his art zoo, **Freianlage** to **Wolverhampton Art Gallery** from 15 Sep - 10 Nov for a solo exhibition showing at the same time as Richard Billingham's Zoo. He will also be launching a publication on his art available through Cornerhouse Publications, more details to follow in the next newsletter about this.
www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk/wolves

Susie MacMurray is in a 4 person show called **Unbound** at the **Turnpike Gallery** from Sept 15th - November 3rd. It's still possible to see **Shell** at **Pallant House Gallery**, which won the Gulbenkian Prize for Museum of the year 2007. Shell was supposed to come down in April, but has been extended to 28th October. It has been fantastically well received and will be included in a Thames & Hudson Book called The Shell by Ingrid Thomas in the chapter on architecture, to be published in October.

For those of you who like to travel further afield, **Samantha Donnelly** is exhibiting in **Triangle DUMBO Arts Festival Exhibition 25**, in **Brooklyn, New York City** from September 28th to October 20th. Triangle New York was initiated in 1982 by Sir Anthony Caro and Robert Loder 'in order to alleviate the loneliness of the studio by offering artists contact with peers and discussions with visiting artists and critics'. Samantha took part in an exchange programme last year and this exhibition is a continuation of that dialogue.

Rosie Miller and **Jonathan Carson** are launching their artists book, **The Exquisite Fold** at the Second Manchester Artist's Book Fair (Saturday 29th September at **Holden Gallery, Manchester Metropolitan University**). It has been produced with Dr Patricia Allmer and Dr John Sears (MMU) who are writing about the work in an essay featured in the book. Rosie and Jonathan's starting point was the Surrealist game of Exquisite Corpse which they have used to explore notions of play, exchange, belief and narrative.



Fiona Curran
She thought she could stand up at the deep end

Fiona Curran's solo show, *The World Is Larger in Summer*, features a series of exciting new paintings and works on paper that employ pattern, colour and landscape imagery in order to conjure up imagined spaces.

With its bright candy-coated images and works that use commercial paint cards with names such as 'African Adventure' and 'Himalayan Musk', invite us to escape somewhere exotic. Just what we need at this time of the year.

MAC, Birmingham, Nov 3rd 2007 - Jan 6th 2008.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT : Tim Machin reflects on his experience of winning Emergency2

Some time in the distant past, I won the Aspex Emergency 2 competition (*Astrolabe*, Aspex Gallery Portsmouth 5 May-1 July 2007).



This open submission show awarded one lucky artist a solo show at the Portsmouth-based gallery the following year. Except, of course, the gallery was moving from its attic, inner-city garret to shiny, newly converted quayside location. Things happened, dates were put back, but finally installation week dawned. I don't make the largest work, so I turned up in Portsmouth with my Tupperware box of artwork created for the space. Some of the art work was so new I had barely finished it (I had to detour via Mme Tussaud's in London to buy materials for one piece) let alone actually seen it in a space (and the double height Georgian grandeur of Aspex's main space is somewhat different from my cubby hole at Suite). Installation was a dream – the sunniest week of the year (this was April!) and me strolling in every day to white tack my miniscule bird silhouettes to the wall, draw my rainbow around the magnificent arched doorway, create a cloud (hanging from the lighting track) from a roll of sellotape. Plus I had a team of technicians to do my bidding (it's normally me, freelancing on the minimum wage half way up a ladder as an artist waltzes around making impossible demands). I also did a radio interview (this I was nervous about – combining two of my biggest fears, talking about my work and phoning strange people...).

At last the day dawns, frantic last minute adjustments to lighting, trying to get a mark on the floor painted out (it never got painted) the pacing waiting for the vinyl text. Finally all is done, people turn up (including collectors and curators from London!) and I can attempt to not get drunk (having not eaten since breakfast). This I manage, just about.

The rest of the show goes well. I give a talk to which people turn up, I'm "put in context" by a writer I admire, I host a supper (I make small talk, I again don't get to eat that much, but make up for this by having a curry at 3am), we produce a publication (copies still available) and there's a review by the local paper. The show comes down, I get my fee (finally I can pay off my show-related debts) and I'm in a whirlwind of new projects, an offsite commission for Angel Row in Nottingham and shows at artist-run space MOOT (also in Nottingham) and St Paul's Artspace in East London.

www.aspex.org.uk

www.mootgallery.org

www.angelrowgallery.com

STOP PRESS!!

Susie MacMurray has been nominated for the **Northern Art Prize**. She is one of just 24 artists. The shortlist of 4 will be announced in September. Good luck Susie!

Things to look out for....

Suite is very excited to be collaborating with artist and critic Ima Pico www.imapico.com on an international exchange programme. *Northern Connections* aims to bring together a group of Estonian, Finnish and Manchester artists (pending funding) in a series of exchanges and group exhibitions. We are delighted that **Bureau** has offered to host the exchange exhibition in Manchester as part of what promises to be an exciting dialogue between a diverse group of artists. Look out for more information in the next newsletter.

As well as working towards her solo show at **MAC, Birmingham**, **Fiona Curran** has also been collaborating with **The Rug Company** in London to produce a series of pieces for their new collection to be launched late autumn 2007. The Rug Company has a reputation for producing beautiful hand knotted rugs using traditional techniques combined with some of the best contemporary design; their collection includes works by Paul Smith, Vivienne Westwood, Marni and Barber Osgerby. This collaboration will see the launch of two new rugs based on Fiona's recent paintings and a hand woven tapestry which has been taken from one of her cut paper collage pieces. Further information can be found at: www.therugcompany.info



Fiona Curran's
Tapestry (detail)

Newsletter information :

The Suite Newsletter will be produced every quarter.

It represents a selection of the exhibitions and events that Suite artists are involved in around the country. The list is not exhaustive and further information can be found on the official Suite website

If you have seen an exhibition of one of the Suite artists and would like to write a few words about it, please email lesley@lesleyhalliwell.co.uk. A couple of sentences will do – no need for a full scale review.

If you would like to be taken off our mailing list please email lesley@lesleyhalliwell.co.uk and let me know.

If you know anyone who would like to be added to our list please let us know.

We hope you have enjoyed it!

Suite Studio Group, Casket Works, Ground Floor, Cow Lane, Salford M5 4WN.
<http://www.suite-studiogroup.co.uk>

suite members: andrew bracey; jonathan carson; amy chan; anne charnock; fiona curran; samantha donnelly; jane fairhurst; bernard georgeson; janet griffiths; lesley halliwell; paul horne; tim machin; susie macmurray; chris marshall; rosie miller; ruth moilliet; john murray; sarah robinson; tom watson