

AMUSE BOUCHE *a two Jonnys taster*

23 May – 27 June 2009

Giulia Ricci -- James Balmforth -- Jo Addison
Leo Fitzmaurice – Robert Filby -- Ruairiadh O'Connell

flyer edition / Mike Goddard *not quite sunset (reassembled found image) 2008 / 200 postcards*
text edition / Andrew Marsh (below)

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The Two Jonnys are extremely pleased to present AMUSE BOUCHE *a two Jonnys taster*, a sampler show setting the score for the spaces future ideas and artistic predilections - a concise group showing of six emerging artists at the Two Jonnys project space in Bethnal Green

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Amuse Bouche

Amuse Bouche is an intriguing title for a first show in a newly launched project space. On one hand it carries with it an air of sophistication; with its origins in Nouvelle Cuisine the name represents a small signature hors d'oeuvre served, not from the menu, but by the chef's selection alone. On the other hand an Amuse Bouche is not a dish, it does not even count as a course and is in many ways a culinary trivial aside from the main meal (the direct translation being an amusement for the mouth).

In many ways this is the perfect title for The Two Jonnys' first show. In recent years the term project space has been increasingly overused, and until recently, with the art worlds increasing commercialisation, these 'project spaces' have merely become gallery extensions exhibiting highly finished works in glossily curated shows. On the contrary Amuse Bouche is not polished. It is faithful to what a project space should be in that it is a space in which ideas are explored and tested, without necessarily knowing what the finished outcome might be. The selected works in this exhibition are a form of research made visual, an on-going investigation into how these works interact both conceptually and visually, not only with each other but also within the space they inhabit. In the same way as an Amuse Bouche the combination of the selected artworks in this exhibition produces a unique juxtaposition of artists who reflect this process of investigatory, research-based practice.

So, while, as with its namesake this show may at first seem a trivial aside it retains at its core a very sophisticated taste of the artists and shows to come.

Andrew Marsh

A brief tour of the exhibition

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James Balmforth -- A parade of pastel blooms slink across the screen in turn, a glow along their stem intensifies before erupting into drafts of smoke, emitting a blinding white light from its centre, which fades to flames.

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Jo Addison -- A staged crop of simply crafted plywood rocks standing proud atop magazine rack legs, an eerie green glow emanates from beyond the sculpted mass.

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Leo Fitzmaurice -- On the floor, balanced by the wall, a found perpendicular folded sheet rests, printed with images of black perpendicular shapes.

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Ruairiadh O'Connell -- A metallic sheet of crispy crumpled foil, embossed with four smooth rectangular bars.

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Giulia Ricci -- A4 paper with a repeated hand drawn pattern in electric blue, interrupted edges allude to a dinosaur footprint shape, like a Photoshop mask.

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Robert Filby -- A low hung rough chipboard shelf houses a mildly mountainous lump of dried-out toilet paper mass. It holds a certain dumb elegance, in faded blue with pink.

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The two Jonnys' is open Saturdays 12 – 6pm
& by appointment

Private view Friday 22 May 6.30 – 9pm

Tel/ 02079 983858

JJ&J HQ
191-205 Cambridge Heath road
Bethnal Green
(Entrance at rear on Buckhurst Street)