

CUTUP & SARA MACKILLOP

07.11.08–11.12.08

PRIVATE VIEW 06.11.08 / 6.30–9PM

The Russian Club Gallery is pleased to present new works by CutUp and Sara MacKillop.

CutUp are an art collective appropriating and reinventing their urban landscape, perhaps best known for their billboard liberation, slicing up and reordering high-profile advertisements to create new and arresting mise en scene. Images promoting a world of desire, harmony, wealth and comfort are replaced with alternative stereotypes, of disaffected youth and social discord.

CutUp's practice focuses largely on the creative potential of the street as a stage for interventionist art, with the inherent action of removing; reordering and replacing the billboard and bus-stop poster it's moment of theatre. The high energy of their collective output flows over to incorporate video, collage, sound and installation. Like the Situationist and Fluxus movements before them CutUp stage interventions in the codes, rhythms, signs and structures of the city, 'We want people to notice the mental environment they live in – that the controlled visual environment of the city directly affects how people feel and think'.

The collective's work has been staged from Barcelona to New York, where it is currently on show at Conflux Festival 08 and the New York Centre for Architecture. Recent exhibitions include BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead 2008, Conflux Festival, New York 2007, Kulturhuset Mazetti, Malmo and Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York 2006.

CutUp live and work in London and are represented by Seventeen Gallery.

The beauty in Sara MacKillop's work lies in the slippage from apparent abstract image or sculpture to more distinctly recognisable objects. Her palette and materials are plucked from the dispensable

world of record sleeves, envelopes, stationery and the like. Sara consistently produces works with gentle humour carefully balanced with a rigour and visual sophistication that belies their apparent playfulness. It is their very lack of irony or knowingness that makes each piece so much more than a visual pun.

Her practice could be seen to have a cognitive approach to processing the world around her. The simplicity of her work can reveal a satisfying moment of clarity and poignancy and hints at other ways in which the world might work.

The origin of each object is never wholly obscured. MacKillop's subtle manipulations bring to the fore their often overlooked, formal qualities. What at first could be seen as the result of mere game playing, at a closer look reveals more than a nod to the grander traditions of twentieth century Modernism.

Sara MacKillop studied at Leeds University and the Royal College of Art. Recent exhibitions include Floor/Wall, Leicester City Art Gallery, Ian Kiaer/Sara MacKillop, International Project Space, and Jessica Bradley Art and Projects, Toronto. She lives and works in London.

The artists have been commissioned to produce a limited addition work unique to The Russian Club portfolio, available for viewing at the gallery and online.

Opening Times
Mon to Fri 11–5pm
Sat & Sun 12–5pm

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