

Uncomfortable Thoughts about your “Comfort Zones”

by: Jack Tupac Pennington

There is an art exhibition at the James Hockey and Foyer Galleries until the 4th of January called “Comfort Zones.” It is a must see exhibition including twelve artists from the UK and abroad exploring the familiarities with our everyday environments.

Comfort is a very interesting aspect of our everyday lives and what we can do or not do with it in order to feel comfortable. I suppose we don't even think about comfort these days as the consumer market is full of objects that although we may never actually use make us feel comfortable. At other times comfort is at the very centre of our upbringings and/or cultures. We often take for granted the form of our comfort and option to have it as opposed to others that might be comfortable with less or more things. The Comfort exhibition screams at your visual conscious. It confronts humans with normality expected from the feelings inside your home environments. It also asks disturbing questions about their function in our psyche's and daily lives.

Daren Banks portrays a witty terror of interior design as his DVD takes us through a short film with no sound portraying the uses of the interiors and their micro functions as a living entity that can be both protective and scary at times. This DVD made me think I was watching a horror movie. The strong dark colour and smooth movement of the camera keeps your attention to everyday objects and their placement throughout the short film makes you want to keep watching. This piece of work struck me as a masterpiece of work, both for students studying Digital Screen Arts and Film Production.

Maia Conran points her fingers rigidly at the marketing game behind housing in Great Britain. Her work comes at a time when most people in Great Britain are having serious economical problems revolving around housing prices. She does a magical spin on how Perspex is perceived by the demands of everyday people trying to sell their properties. Digital Prints of people sitting in front of their houses or going about their everyday routines in front of properties up for sale with write ups explaining the properties key features. Makes me wonder if the housing market is more about selling your soul than selling a precious object that has no connection to who you are. Is it for the money or is it for the cash?

Martin Kersels flips, turns, and tickles your perception of gravity and its function with our comfort environment. The Pink Constellation, a 20-minute DVD, packs a matrix style kind of punch below the conscious and psyche of humans around the world. Interesting tricks for any students interested in producing film.

Nina Saunders invites you to take a seat in Dali's psychology as she distorts our comfort of everyday objects. Her pieces in this exhibition give you a drop of LSD and take you on a trip to an un-comfortable space where visual comforts beat you on the head. Any creative artist out there has got to get this girl to come down and design the interior of their homes. This is shock therapy at its best.

Anka Dabrowska gives a cry from the dark side of the moon with her thrilling graphics and models depicting an autobiography of inner city life. KFC and big tanks gives you a psychological twist on the urban experience. Her delicate drawings and models

reminded me of the projects in the United States where no one really stops to think why councils put poor people in such ugly kinds of circumstance as if they were doing them a favour.

Kentucky Fried Chicken has to be called KFC because they don't use real chicken in their food, kind of like tanks pulling up on the front lawns of Iraqi people. They aren't there to protect and fight for democracy they are there to impose the democratic will on a people who have no choice about the matter.

Louis Hopkins questions the very nature of history and its representation in our everyday lives. He uses all types of pre-printed articles that he twists to deny the truth in its original print. He completely fooled me; I thought his pieces looked better than what I could only imagine to be the original pieces of work. Mr. Hopkins seems to be asking us do you believe everything you see?

These are only six artists from an exhibition wielding an axe at our soft skinned imaginations. There are twelve artists in total at this exhibition. It's easy to come up with your own perception of their work. All of these artists whether I was inspired or not by them are real artists. Bullshit artists if you need some inspiration this is an exhibition worth taking a look at.

All exhibiting artists include; Darren Banks, Paul Bush, Maia Conran, Katie Cuddon, Anka Dabrowska, Caitlin Heffernan, Louise Hopkins, Martin Kersels, Nina Saunders, Jennie Savage, Ola Simonsson & Johannes Stjarne