

Press Release

Introspective Men

Mark Anstee, Paolo Arao, Matthew Fisher, Nayef Homsy, Ridley Howard, Paul Johnson, Ansel Krut, Andrew Mania, Gavin Tremlett.

Curated by David Kefford

8th October – 30th October 2005

Gallery opening times: Thursday - Friday 12-6pm and Saturday - Sunday 12-4pm

Opening Reception: 6-9pm Friday 7th October 2005

Madder139 is delighted to present this group show of International male artists, which has been organised and curated by David Kefford

Introspective Men deliberately sets out to question the notion of masculinity and of 'being a man' by attempting to offer an alternative view of the 'macho world'. These artists are not interested in fast cars and high living; they are more content on presenting their esoteric visions of the world with quiet voices and sensitive tones.

All of the selected artists in this exhibition demonstrate a particular interest in representing the male figure captured in moments of introspection, either directly confronting the viewer with unsettling presence or shying away from the viewers gaze with melancholic contemplation and thought.

Drawing is the common medium used by these artists for its simple, intimate, low-tech means of self-expression. The work is frequently, understated anti-heroic and small scale and is made with considerable care and attention in an often obsessive and devotional style.

The visitor is given insights of the internal conflicts and fragile masculine identities, which seemingly worry and torment the minds of men in a continually uncertain and ambiguous world. Many of the images are at first erotic and seductive yet reveal a vulnerable, pathetic and sad quality. Quiet, ***Introspective Men***, whose feelings of pain and joy are deep rooted, yearning for a change that may bring them love and happiness.

Madder139 is dedicated to showing the work of International emerging artists, irrespective of age, education and background. The work we show is selected based purely on merit. We choose what we believe will excite and challenge the viewer. Our focus is on producing a limited number of high quality shows each year.

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