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RACONTE-MOI UNE HISTOIRE... (TELL ME A STORY...)

Jacin Giordano, João Louro, Niamh O'Malley

Curated by **Frédéric Bonnet**

Exhibition dates: 29 April to 3 June, 2006

Opening reception: 29 April, 4 – 9 pm

Intended as a conjunction of contrasts, *Tell me a story...* is the meeting of three artistic approaches that, despite radically different visual aspects, each have in common a significant potential narrative - a potential that marks the effective absence of a story, strictly speaking.

Somewhere between painting, video and sculpture, the works of Jacin Giordano, João Louro and Niamh O'Malley, artists all exhibiting in Paris for the first time, release the scraps of a narrative, sometimes initiating a story, yet only delivering a primer and obstinately refusing to tell it all. This refusal places the spectator in the position of storyteller, with their impressions and the twists and turns of their sensations leaving their mind to dictate the story.

Besides the fact that such an absence opens multiple and almost infinite possibilities, this sort of paradoxical absence of a story notably reinforces the impact, as much visual as narrative, of the works exhibited.

Jacin Giordano (born 1978, lives in Miami)

Burgeoning, abundant, as if in a state of perpetual creation, the painting of Jacin Giordano appears as clever assemblages, collages in which forms and materials seem in constant experimentation, proceeding with precise and painstaking additions, bands of acrylic paint, glue, threads, fragments of wool... on a chosen surface (normally on canvas or MDF).

The artist never ceases to play with constructive oppositions and fascinating contrasts, his technique using the accumulation of successive layers renders such contrasts and oppositions visually efficient and most intriguing. Like puzzles in potential evolution, assembled without preparatory outline, Jacin Giordano's paintings appear almost like construction games within which the eye is invited to lose itself then reassemble the elements. Each work constitutes a possible solution for the artist, a working hypothesis that sometimes leads him to express himself sculpturally.

Though sometimes seemingly chaotic, his painting is not stripped of a certain sensuality, a poetry in which the world of childhood, fears and fairytales seems close by, even if the threads Jacin weaves lead us to wander afar.



Jacin Giordano, *Untitled (Triple Rainbow)*, 2004
acrylic on canvas, 50 x 50 cm

João Louro (born 1963, lives in Lisbon)

João Louro unceasingly questions the profusion of images at the confluence of both the visual and language. He is an artist developing a multiple practise with numerous ramifications, expressing himself with materials as varied as paint, neon or multimedia installations.

His *Blind Images* are an element of response to the visual saturation of the contemporary world, but at the same time they are also an interrogation of the value of images in terms of content and language.

In his very neutral visual compositions, a monochromatic layer of paint covers the canvas – we do not know whether or not the canvas bears a motif hidden by this colour or not – this monochromatic field is associated with a caption, the text sourced from newspapers, books or magazines. Supposedly facilitating the decoding of the visual, the caption initiates a story that the “non-image” paradoxically accompanies, with the intervention of the free space calling upon the spectator to lose themselves in the work in order to apprehend it. This effect is also magnified in that the perspex that covers these works reflects the spectator(s) and their environment.

Like a curtain falling prematurely across the stage, João Louro's *Blind Images* act like retinal impressions, even more tenacious in that they carry the mark of frustration. The confusion maintained as to the truth of the discourse sounds out like a testimony of freedom for the imaginary.



João Louro, *Blind Image #60*, 2004
Canvas, enamel and perspex

Niamh O'Malley (born 1975, lives in Dublin)

Hybrid by nature, the work of Niamh O'Malley renews painting and the pictorial genre in combining painting and video in compositions that are even more surprising in that they interrogate at length the nature of the images that they offer for viewing.

Her “Vignettes” are canvases of various formats on which the artist has painted motifs, interior or exterior scenes, in which an action always seems to be unfolding. A video projection of the same scene is exactly superimposed onto the painted canvas.

The visual effect is stunning, even more so in that the “action” filmed remains silent and restrained, leaving the spectator in the expectation of what or if something will happen. This brings about an animation of the space with silence and contemplation and, in-habitually, enters the pictorial medium into an indefinite temporality. In superimposing these representations, Niamh O'Malley creates a depth of field within the frame but at the same time the artist multiplies possible viewpoints, this tends to “frustrate the fulfilment of the spectacle” by generating waiting periods.

Oscillating between reality and its representation, the “Vignettes”, by the apparent simplicity of their process, have an even stronger and troubling effect.



Niamh O'Malley, *North St, Skibbereen, vignette*, 2005
DVD projection (3 min loop), oil on canvas, 101,5 x 76,5 cm

JACIN GIORDANO

b. Stamford, CT, 1978

Lives in Miami

EDUCATION

1999 Maryland Institute, College of Art, B.F.A. Painting, Graduated Cum Laude , Baltimore, MD

1996 New World School of the Arts *Visual Art*, Miami, FL

EXHIBITIONS (*SOLO SHOWS)

- 2006 2006 South Florida Cultural Consortium Recipients, University Galleris FAU (upcoming) Boca Raton, FL
"Walking on the wild stars," project by Valerie Cueto Gallery (Paris), Curated by Frederic Bonnet (upcoming), Basel, SW
"Raconte-moi une Histoire..." Gallery Baumet Sultana, Paris, FR, Curated by Federic Bonnet (upcoming)
"D.E.M.O.N.S. to Diamonds," Locust Projects, Miami, FL
"The Armory Show," Fredric Snitzer Gallery, New York, NY
- 2005 "Art Basel Miami Beach," Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Miami, FL
"Hanging by a Thread," The Moore Space. Curated by Nina Arias and Jose Diaz, Miami, FL
"CO OPERATIVE," Bas Fisher Invitational, Miami, FL
"O, The Games We Play," Fredric Snitzer Gallery. Curated by Tyler Emerson, Miami, FL
"The Downtown Dinner," LMCC (Benefit Show), New York, NY
"The Armory Show," Fredric Snitzer Gallery , New York, NY
- 2004 "Surface Tension," Savage Art Resources. Curated by Laurel Gitlen, Portland, Oregon
"Art Basel Miami Beach," Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Miami, FL
*"The Rainbow's End and All of the Plastic in Between," Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Miami, FL (solo)
"cha-cha-cha," Worm-hole Laboratories. Curated by Jose Diaz, Miami, FL
"domesticArrivals," White Box Gallery, New York, NY
"Lock, Stock and Barrel," Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Miami, FL
- 2003 "10 Floridians," Miami Art Central. Curated by Ivo Mesquita (catalogue), Miami, FL
"Art Basel/Miami Beach," Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Miami, FL
"Made in Miami," Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Miami, FL
"Tinsel Reality," Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Miami, FL (solo)
"The Night Speedy Legs Went GQ," Locust Projects, Miami, FL
"Drawing Conclusions," Buena Vista Building. Curated by Nina Arias, Miami, FL
- 2002 "Art Basel/Miami Beach," Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Miami, FL
"15/Caliber," Barbara Gillman Gallery. Curated by Brandon Opalka, Miami, FL
"Smoke and Mirrors," Fredric Snitzer Gallery. Curated by Hernan Bas , Miami, FL
"Roving Friday," Objex Art Space. Curated by Dustin Orlando, Miami, FL
- 2001 "2nd Annual Drawing Exhibition," Starland Gallery, Savannah, GA
"Dear Art History Student," by Superfantastic #13, Miami, FL
- 2000 "B-More," by Superfantastic #10, Baltimore, MD
- 1999 "27 Landscapes, 8 Self-Portraits and an Interior," Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD
"Cherished Objects," Contemporary Art Center of Virginia, Virginia Beach, VA

COLLECTIONS

Dennis and Debra Scholl, Miami, FL
George Lindeman, Miami, FL
Tom Healy and Fred Hochberg, Miami, FL
Arturo Mosquero, Miami, FL
Four Seasons Hotel, Miami, FL
Maryland Institute, College of Art, Baltimore, MD
Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT
New World School of the Arts, Miami, FL

JOÃO LOURO

B. Lisbon, 1963

Lives in Lisbon

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2005 Naked Drawings, Cristina Guerra Contemporary Art, Lisbon.
- 2004 Blind Runner, Centro Cultural de Belém, Lisbon.
- 2001 Epicentro, Estudo sobre a Origem das Línguas, Cristina Guerra Contemporary Art, Lisbon.
La Pensée et l'Erreur, (curated by Ferran Barenblit), Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona.
Love Scenes, Círculo de Artes Plásticas de Coimbra (ECO.), Coimbra.
Aplauso, Ensaio sobre os Dados Imediatos da Consciência, Serralves Foundation / Silo Cultural Space, Oporto.
- 2000 Runaway Car Crashed #2, (curated by João Fernandes), Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art (MACS), Oporto.
- 1999 Run Away Car Crashed #1, Cultural Centre of São Paulo (CCSP), São Paulo, Brazil.
- 1998 Eye of the Devil, Ceramics Museum, Caldas da Rainha.
Air Bag, The Return of the Real, (ECO.), National Museum of Contemporary Art, Museu do Chiado, Lisbon.
Diamond Shine, Círculo de Artes Plásticas de Coimbra (ECO.), Coimbra.
Ibiden. Xerox after Violent Death, Cesar Galeria, Lisbon.
- 1996 Tokyosony Wonder Museum, Galeria Graça Fonseca, Lisbon.
- 1994 News Hound, Galeria Graça Fonseca, Lisbon.
News Hound, Galerie Georges Verney-Carron, Lyon.
I do What Happens, Galeria Graça Fonseca, Lisbon.
Sin Servir a su Majestad, Espai Pascual Lucas, Valencia.
- 1991 King & Kong ? O que aconteceu ao Niilismo?, National Library, Lisbon.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2006 Walking on the wild stars, project by Valérie Cueto Gallery (Paris), curated by Frédéric Bonnet, Basel

Raconte-moi une histoire..., curated by Frédéric Bonnet, Galerie Baumet Sultana, Paris
- 2005 O contrato social, Museu Bordalo Pinheiro, Lisbon.
Romance [a novel] (curated by Adriano Pedrosa), Cristina Guerra Contemporary Art, Lisbon.
Insite 05 – Art Practices in the Public Domain, S. Diego/Tijuana
The Experience of Art (curated by Maria de Corral), La Biennale di Venezia, Venice
Les Marathon des Mots, Toulouse
- 2003 Into the Breach (curated by Thomas Peutz), Smart Project Space, Amsterdam.
Liste Basel 03, Smart Project Space, Basel.
- 2002 EAST International (curated by Lawrence Weiner and Jack Wendler), Norwich Gallery, Norwich.
Confronto + Mistura, (curated by Ricardo Basbaun), Freixo Power-Station, Oporto.
UrbanLab, (curated by Paulo Mendes), Maia Bienalle, Maia.
- 2001 Colecção Banco Privado, (curated by João Fernandes), Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art (MACS), Oporto.
- 2000 More Works about Buildings and Food (ECO.), (curated by Pedro Lapa), Oeiras Foundry, Oeiras.
Portuguese Contemporary Art, Glasgow.
XXVI Bienal de Pontevedra (ECO.), (curated by Maria Corral and Miguel Perez), Galicia.
- 1999 Ruído, (curated by Miguel Perez), Cesar Galeria, Lisbon.
- 1998 Read my Lips..., Centro Cultural de Belém (small auditorium), Lisbon.
Read my Lips..., 6 ème Biennale International du Film sur l'Art, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris.

- 1997 Ecos de la Materia, Museu Estremeño e Iberoamericano de Arte Contemporânea (MEIAC), Badajoz.
A Arte pode ser Afirmativa? (ECO.), Culturgest, Lisbon.
ICTM 97, (ECO.), Palácio Galveias, Lisbon.
Ecos de la Matéria 2, Sala de las Atarazanas, Valencia.
Ex. Mater, Museu Estremeño e Iberoamericano, MEIAC, Badajoz.
Art Attack, Galeria ZDB, Lisbon.
- 1996 Manifesta 96, Rotterdam.
- 1995 Espectáculo, Disseminação, Deriva e Exílio? Um projecto em torno de Guy Debord, Metallurgic of Beja, Beja.
Peninsulares, Galeria Tomas March, (curated by João Fernandes), Valencia.
Espai Antoni Estrany, (curated by João Fernandes), Barcelona.
40 ème Salon de Montrouge, (curated by João Pinharanda), Montrouge, Paris.
- 1994 Imagens para os anos 90, Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art (MACS), (comissariada por António Cerveira Pinto e Miguel Perez), Oporto and Culturgest, Lisbon.
Fet a Europa, Centre Cultural d'Alcoi.
- 1993 Made in Portugal, (comissariada por João Louro), Galeria Graça Fonseca, Lisbon.
- 1992 Encontros de Fotografia de Braga, (ECO.), Monastery of Tibães, Braga.
- 1991 V Bienal dos Jovens do Mediterrâneo, Marseille.

NIAMH O'MALLEY

B. Dublin, 1975
Lives in Dublin

EDUCATION

- 2003-04 International Studio Program, PS1 MoMa, New York
- 2000-03 PhD, Split studio and theoretical research, University of Ulster, Belfast *'Repositioning the Landscape Viewer; Investigating Models of Appreciation and Visual Representation'*
- 1999-00 Northern Irish Fellow, British School at Rome
- 1993-96 BA Hons Combined Studies in Art and Design, University of Ulster, Belfast

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2006 *Raconte-moi une histoire...*, curated by Frédéric Bonnet, Galerie Baumet Sultana, Paris, May - June
Responding to Rome, Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art, London
- 2005 *NADA*, International Art Fair, Miami
Present Future, Artissima, International Art Fair, Turin, Solo Project selected by Patrick Charpenel, Emma Dexter, Massimiliano Gioni, Heike Munder & Rochelle Steiner
Perspectives, FIAC, International Art Fair, Paris at Green on Red gallery, Dublin
Devils Glen, Conference and artists project, Wicklow, Ireland
Remote, LOT, Bristol, curated by Eamon O'Kane
The Bookstore, commissioned project, Palazzo delle Papesse, Siena, Italy,
Printed Project, article, 51st Venice Biennale 2005, Ireland, ed. Alan Phelan,
Living Landscape, West Cork Arts Centre, Cork, European City of Culture 2005
Inner Garden, Ise Cultural Foundation, New York
EV+A Exhibition of Visual+Art, Limerick City Gallery, prizewinner, curated by Dan Cameron
New Territories, ARCO 05, International Art Fair, Madrid
- 2004 *Vignette*, Solo Exhibition, Green on Red Gallery, Dublin,
Lan2d Research Group, Dean Clough Gallery, Halifax, England,
Art from a Rucksack, Horse Head Projects, Florida, curated by Matthew Lennon
Teufel, Artists Newspaper Edition, co-ordinated by Tatjana Doll and Stefania Galegati,
European Space, Riga Sculpture Quadrennial, Latvia, Irish representative,
Dollhouse, Group exhibition, Orchard St, New York, curated by Tatjana Doll,
Visa for 13, International Studio Program Exhibition, P.S.1 MoMa, New York
No particular place to go, Apt gallery, London, curated by Mary Maclean
- 2003 *Affinity Archive*, organised by Sarah Pierce, Broadstone Studios, Dublin
EV+A Exhibition of Visual+Art, Limerick City Gallery, selected by Virginia Perez-Ratton,
- 2002 *Open House*, Casino Luxembourg, Luxembourg, curated by Maria Hlavajova,
Strictly Personnel, Engine Room Gallery, Belfast, curated by Angela Darby
- 2001 *Hohere Wesen Befahlen: Anders Malen*, Smart Project Space, Amsterdam, curated by Mark Kremer
Claremorris Open Exhibition, Co Mayo, Ireland, selected by Lewis Biggs
On a Clear Day, Solo Exhibition, Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast, curated by Hugh Mullholland
- 2000 *Stardust*, Context Gallery, Derry, curated by Declan Sheehan
International Exhibition, Rialto Occupato, Al'Sant Ambrogio, Rome
Rosa, Niamh O'Malley, Rose Frain, Kit Wise, Pino Casagrande Gallery, Rome
Villa Crispi, Naples, Group Show
The British School at Rome, Catalogue and Exhibition
Emporio Maraini, Grande Mercato D'arte, Swiss Academy, Rome
- 1999 *Niamh O'Malley, Eamon O'Kane, Joanna Fursman*, Context Gallery, Derry
Claremorris Open Exhibition, Claremorris Public Library, Co Mayo, Ireland
Horsehead International Sculpture Project, site specific works, Belfast
Convergence II, Permanent Public Art Commission, The Granary, Waterford
EV+A Exhibition of Visual+Art, selected by Jeanne Greenberg Rohaytn, Limerick City Hall
- 1998 *Glimpse*, group drawing show, touring, Queen St. Studios, Belfast
Forty Shades & Notions, Exchange exhibition, Kingston, New York
NI Gulp, Plug-In Gallery, Winnipeg, Canada, curated by Cliff Eyland
Art from Belfast, four person exhibition, Idao Gallery, Chicago

- Voice/Over*, Catalyst Arts residency, Artists Work Programme, IMMA, Dublin, group project
- 1997 *Catalyst Arts*, installation and performance at the Art Exchange Show, New York
Alternative Art fair
Selected exhibition of *Irish/Scottish* art in the Art Club Burgwedel e.V, Hannover, Germany
Directors Show, Catalyst Arts, Belfast
Museum of the 20th Century, Catalyst Arts, Belfast
- 1996 *Art Site*, artists billboard project for the Belfast Festival at Queens
Splatter, Haunted House exhibition, Crawfordsburn, Co. Down
Mapping Space, Solo exhibition of paintings, Foxford Exhibition Centre, Co. Mayo
Iontas, National Small Works Exhibition, Sligo, Limerick, Dublin, Derry
- 1995 *Na Ceithre Gaoithe*, Foxford Exhibition Centre, Co. Mayo
Fix, Performance Art week, Catalyst Arts, Belfast

AWARDS

- 2005 Firestation, Artists Residency Award, Dublin
The Arts Council, Ireland, Artists Bursary
The Arts Council, Ireland, Travel and Mobility Award
- 2003/04 PS1 Fellowship, New York, The Arts Council, Ireland
- 1999-01 Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Individual Award
- 1998-01 The Arts Council, Ireland, Individual Award
- 1999/00 The British School at Rome, Northern Irish Fellow
- 1997/98/05 Arts Council, Ireland, Travel Award
- 1998 Belfast City Council, Travel and Catalogue Grant
Department of Foreign Affairs, Travel Award
- 1996 Spectrum Oil Colour Award, University of Ulster