

Secrets and Shadows. Art exhibition explores twilight world of 'Thirteen'

Submitted by: Red Wave Communications Ltd

Wednesday, 30 April 2008

Thirteen artists give their own personal take on the darker side of the human psyche in an exhibition to mark the paperback launch of Sebastian Beaumont's latest novel Thirteen.

Secrets and Shadows is a showcase for the artists' most intimate work... paintings, drawings and photographs that might not normally be put on public display. The artists have used their work as a cathartic or therapeutic experience to come to terms with traumatic life events making for a powerful and moving collection of images.

The idea of 'art as a psychological journey' was inspired by Sebastian Beaumont's novel Thirteen, which is to be released in paperback to co-incide with the May exhibition at Foyles Gallery.

Caitlin Smail, curator of Secrets and Shadows says: 'Common themes are the disquiet we feel when confronted by unfamiliar situations, the ripples that flow from unexpected events or revelations, the de-stabilisation that a new perspective can wreck on the old, safe and familiar. These changes can uncover secrets hidden or repressed by our subconscious and shed light on the darker recesses of our psyches.'

Smail's own work, If these walls could talk, is a boxed assemblage of found objects which she was inspired to make after reading Thirteen in 2007. Described by Scott Pack, former head buyer at Waterstones as his 'Book of the Year' 2007, Beaumont's novel tells the story of a taxi driver working the night shift in Brighton. He works such long shifts that he is often exhausted and he starts to experience major alterations to his perception of reality. People appear and disappear who know far too much about him and his past, and who lure him further and further into the twilight world of Thirteen.

Smail says: 'Making sense of the world around us is a central part of our being. From our earliest thoughts we define ourselves in terms of our understanding and knowledge, the people we know and love. The discovery of the new can cause us to re-evaluate our lives and our priorities, to question our relationships and motivations.'

Contributing artists: Samantha Allflatt, Elaine Arkel, Roxy Botkin, Jules Cowan, Edward Draper, Candace Imison, Ben Lees, Patrick Moffat, Laura Murgia, Caitlin Smail, Toby Wilkinson and Shelly Wyn-De-Bank.

Notes for editors:

Secrets and Shadows takes place from Monday 12th May until Sunday 18th May at Foyles Gallery, Foyles Book Shop, 113-119 Charring Cross Road, London WC2.

Private View: Tuesday 13th May, 6-9pm with an author reading by Sebastian Beaumont at 6.30pm.

Photographs available.

For further information visit Secrets and Shadows (<http://www.caitlinsmail.net/Secrets-Shadows>) or Myrmidon Books (http://www.myrmidonbooks.com/new_titles_thirteen)

Press enquiries:

Kate Allan

Tel: 07973 218434

Email: publicity@myrmidonbooks.com