

Unnatural Selection - 28th May – 13th June 2010 - at Londonewcastle Project Space, 28 Redchurch Street, London E2 7DP. Participating artists: Adam Ball, Caroline list, Freya Douglas-Morris, Fiona Macdonald, Sam Jury and Christopher Stevens.

Submitted by: Cassleton Elliott
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'Unnatural Selection', the Spring 2010 exhibition organised by FluffPR™, and generously supported by Londonewcastle, explores the notion that nature, and by implication, Man, has reached an uneasy balance, an unstable equilibrium that fluctuates between harmony and conflict.

In this show a group of artists are brought together who through their own distinctive style are fascinated by this oscillation between harmony and conflict.

These artists, selected by curator Ben Austin and Tory Turk are all established contemporary British artists, well represented in both private and corporate collections.

Adam Ball's work is represented in the collections of Mick Jagger, L'Wren Scott, George Michael and Kenny Goss. Caroline List, Freya Douglas-Morris, Fiona MacDonald, Sam Jury and Christopher Stevens have all created works for this show.

'We live in dark times. Our relationship with our environment is ambivalent at best. We have a new breed of artists who are looking directly into the abyss with an uneasy mixture of wonder and awe.' Ben Austin – Curator of 'Unnatural Selection'

We are all familiar with Darwin's theory of natural selection, where evolution is brutal- organisms survive and thrive or become extinct. 'Unnatural Selection' as the title suggests is concerned with the distortion and perversion of this order of things. Each artist has their own phantasmagorical take on the natural world. In Caroline List's work we see exotic birds of paradise juxtaposed to icebergs. Adam Ball's paintings and cut outs are vivid euphoric fantasy places, simultaneously alluring and foreboding. Freya Douglas-Morris's painterly landscapes resonate with memories and half forgotten fragments in time. Fiona MacDonald's morphological porcelain forms suggest the emergence of a new organism. Christopher Steven's work shares similar concerns, whereby the internal life force of a painted form acts under its own pulsating and mutating will. Sam Jury's video piece alludes to a dystopian vision of the future. An unsettling and disturbing landscape whereby the role of humanity is uncertain and undetermined. With 'Unnatural Selection' we find ourselves in the realm of the 'other place'; the unknown and the uncertain. There are clear references to science fiction, the fantasy landscapes of the future as well as alluding to the natural romanticism of the past as seen in the work of Caspar David Friedrich, (the 19th century German Romantic landscape artist). 'Unnatural Selection' plays with the notion of the sublime, exploring unsettling aesthetics in a contemporary context.

Robert Soning of Londonewcastle, the primary sponsor of this show, comments: 'We have two levels of connection to this show. In the first place, we were excited, not only by the credentials but also by the bold ambition of the artists and of the curator. We immediately felt that it fits with philosophy to work with the very best creative talent. Secondly, our company's sole function is to enhance the landscape

of London. As the primary focus of the show is to explore the dynamic, changing nature of environment that really resonated with us. Particularly so, given the location: our Project Space in Shoreditch.'

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For more artist information and images: www.unnatural-selection.com

