



**“INISHTURKBEG ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL ‘LIFE VIVIDLY LIVED’
EXHIBITION AT FLOWERS, CORK ST.**



Yellow Boat, © Scarlett Hooft Graafland, C-type print, 100 x 80 cm

Inishturkbeg, a private island off the West Coast of Ireland recently held the first annual **Inishturkbeg Artists' Week** in September 2009. Pieces created from this unique experience will be exhibited from 9th to 14th February 2010 at **Flowers Gallery, Cork Street**, bringing a little of the island's philosophy of 'Life Vividly Lived' to London. One piece from each artist will be donated to the island for future visitors to enjoy. The artists taking part in the inaugural **Inishturkbeg Artists' Week** and showing the results of their time there at **Flowers** are: **Nicola Hicks, Scarlett Hooft Graafland, Kay Harwood, Shoichi Sakurai, Peter Jaques, Laura Brennan and Darren Edwards.**

Further images of work and the event in progress are available on request.

Each artist was chosen for their experience and skill with different media and their distinctive relationship with the environment. They were invited to spend a week living on Inishturkbeg and create a piece of work in response to this unique environment, communicating the island's philosophy of 'Life Vividly Lived'.

Inishturkbeg is situated in Clew Bay, County Mayo, a remarkably beautiful part of Ireland which is rich in historic tales of pirates, traders and seafarers. A fascination with islands led owner, Nadim Sadek, to wish to share the beauty of Inishturkbeg. Nadim says, "We think of Inishturkbeg as a parallel universe, where our experiences are intensified and our lives amplified. Each chapter there is somehow super-oxygenated, with colours, sounds, smells and feelings brilliantly etched into our minds. Inishturkbeg, simply, offers everyone lucky enough to enjoy its charms, a Lungful of Life. It takes a lot of words to capture the unique spirit of Inishturkbeg. Artists' Week is intended to do so much better than mere words".

Flowers has long been associated with diverse and exciting contemporary art, and the Inishturkbeg project will be no exception.

The event is being curated by Jim Edwards of the Michael Hoppen Gallery and Sara Johnson, managing director of Inishturkbeg.

Artists

Nicola Hicks

Nicola Hicks is one of the foremost sculptors of her generation. Born in London in 1960, she studied at Chelsea School of Art, and took her MA at the Royal College of Art. Hicks has been honoured with an MBE for her contribution to the visual arts and works primarily in plaster and straw, and huge sheets of brown paper on which she works up her dynamic charcoal drawings. Many of the sculptures have subsequently been cast in bronze, often with such subtlety that every fragile detail of plaster and straw is reproduced.



Scarlett Hooft Graafland

Born in 1973 in the Netherlands, Hooft Graafland combines straight photographic practice with performance and sculpture. The resulting work is visually engaging and constantly refers to a more profound cultural discourse. Using a surrealist language of intriguing visual jokes, Hooft Graafland alludes to her anthropological interests and environmental concerns, and the physicality of her immediate surroundings to form the basis of the work she produces.



Kay Harwood

Harwood begins her paintings by looking at old photographs. She then makes collages with elements from numerous specially selected images. These collages are reworked until a balance is achieved between a subtle discordant awkwardness and an all over balance of form and colour. These are then used as the basis of her strangely static and haunting images.



Shoichi Sakurai

<http://www.shoichi-sakurai.com> As a self taught artist from Japan, Shoi's work has evolved along with his love and passion for old things. A key element in Shoi's art is the aesthetic concept of wabisabi, and much of his work is about finding beauty in the imperfect manmade objects that have been worn by age, use, and neglect. In his recycled art, a different perception of an object is celebrated, and abandoned and overlooked items are "resurrected" and given new life and new direction.



Peter Jaques

Peter Jaques' describes his work as Performed Photography. Although photography is his medium, the primary but unseen element in his finished work is performance. His works are influenced by ancient tradition and the romance of storytelling, working with classical text, often in specific locations. In 2006, he graduated with an MA in Photography from the Royal College of Art and was awarded both the Hoopers Gallery and the Davis Langdon Award.



Laura Brennan

Laura's work explores how industrialized society's relation to the natural world is no longer balanced, and recent paintings have focused on the human psychic relation to that world and its landscapes. Her paintings are also an attempt to discover what paint can do and use paint as the vehicle to manifest this subconscious connection, a parallel journey into unknown territory.



Darren Edwards

Darren continues to work on his project 'Our Infinite Day-trip' which maps a hinterland between perceptions of urban space and the romanticised wild. Using extreme condition tent technology, Darren has been creating sculptures as a response to man's quest to travel into the wild, and the consequences and impacts of such journeys.



For further information and images, please contact Sara Johnson on 07747 761649/
sara@inishturbeg.com.

Inishturbeg is available for rental, for private and corporate use.

Please have a look at the website: www.inishturbeg.com.

