

KEN Artspace

16 Windmill Row, London, SE11 5DW
Open: Thu-Fri 11am-5pm, Sat 11am-4pm
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Andrew Carnie, *BEING HUMAN: SOMEONE I KNOW*, watercolour on steel mesh grids 2023 (detail)

ANDREW CARNIE: *SOMEONE I KNOW*

30 May -22 June 2024

Preview: Saturday 1 June 2024 11am – 4pm

Ken Artspace presents *Someone I Know*, a solo exhibition of watercolour heads by Andrew Carnie. These watercolours are an ongoing project, something Carnie has been completing regularly, but only recently presented to the public. As he explains: “If you ‘see’ and try to ‘understand’ the world through images, you need to make them”.

Carnie is best known for his large-scale video projection works, based on a practice of working with scientists on topics such as heart transplant, brain implants, neurology, and immunology. These video-projection pieces take as long as six-months to a year to make, to be ready for exhibition. As in such works as *Atlas: There and Here* (2012) currently touring in the exhibition, *Brains(s)* in Spain, or *Blue Matter* (2020), shown recently at the Kunsthall Charlottetborg, Copenhagen.

To counter this he has developed a parallel approach, producing small 'quicker to realise' watercolours, making them at a rate of 4 or 5 a week. This he does alongside making the larger-scale video pieces to make something material and get him through, what can be, very monotonous periods editing on the computer.

The watercolours have become more and more important to him, spread in variety and grown in the way an art practice should. They now inform many parts of his practice, which as well as the video installations include oil paintings, sculptures and artists books.

The watercolours first originated as he tried to make a 'messier' work, to reflect the complicated aspects of a project on heart transplant; *Hybrid Bodies* (2008-2019), a project based in Toronto, Canada, where most of the work he made were video pieces, too clean for a project that was very much about 'messy entanglements', the world of donors and doner families, recipients and their tricky relationships; the blood and guts of splicing bodies together; minds and change together. He started painting realistic hearts in watercolour in a human dissecting space in Antwerp, but gradually these have moved on to become extended paintings, semi biographical heads or universal states of mind painted in his studio in Winchester.

The watercolours have spread to take on aspects of video-based works that have included MRI cross sections of the brain, to stitch and felting aspects of earlier projects (*Junctures of a Haphazard Kind*, Spencer Museum of Art, Kansas 2021), that tried to explore aspects of grafting together bodies by replicating this through the action of getting other artists to join together sections of Andrew's watercolours. In *Change my Mind* (Science Gallery, Bengaluru, 2022) looking at the possibility of brain implants, artists, scientists and the public 'added' to head images developed by Andrew.

All these projects can be seen to have informed Andrews recent work.

For press, images and any media requests:

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Editors Notes

Andrew Carnie is a contemporary visual artist practicing in the UK. His main concerns focus on the interface of art and science, often working in collaboration with scientists, though not exclusively. His approach is media agnostic, using methodologies and media as informed by the context, concepts, and concerns. Large-scale installations and environments are a key part of his practice, exploring subjects such as heart transplants, metabolism, and neurological conditions – these immersive works engage audiences in how we see ourselves through the world of science.

Painting and sculpting have an enduring place in his practice, but video, projection, and installation are his primary strengths. He creates environments that are endlessly fascinating around subjects, like immunology, epilepsy, autism, and body augmentation that intrigue him; audiences become caught up in these transformative works.

Recent work has been shown at the CCCB, Barcelona, Brain Observatory, San Diego, Kunsthall Charlottenborg, København, RSU Anatomical Museum, Riga, and Spencer Museum of Art, Kansas.

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Ken artspace is a small new art space in the heart of Kennington. Run by artists and founders Rob Kessler and Agalis Manessi is dedicated to a mix of occasional exhibitions, window installations and pop-up events.

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<https://www.kenart.space>