

Galerie Francesca Pia

Press Release

David Shrigley

January 10 – March 14, 2009

Opening on January 23, 2009, 6 – 8 p.m.

Starting at 11 p.m., Shrigley Library and films by David Shrigley in the Perla-Mode exhibition space (www.corner-college.com). There will be a bar and music, and the artist will be present.

"I think my work is only funny by accident. I always want to make art that is poetic and profound but it mostly ends up being funny instead. I don't know why." Renowned for its wittiness, the work of David Shrigley is funny in ways that are paradoxical and not easy to digest. Its humor addresses the dark side of life and the cracks in the veneer of society. The clumsy creatures in his drawings invoke a world in which social conventions and norms are disdained and courteousness and control are abandoned.

Galerie Francesca Pia starts off the new year with a presentation of drawings, paintings and sculptures by David Shrigley, its fourth solo show of the artist. The high entertainment value of the exhibition cannot mask the works' philosophical profundity. Shrigley's play with words and images, for instance, constitutes a witty examination of the problem of translating linguistic statements into imagery through the simplest possible means. In the process, humor frequently provides an outlet for Shrigley's both despairing and comical investigation into socially anathematized areas or moral dilemmas. The cartoon-like and deliberately amateurish style, on the other hand, serves to provide relief from the pessimism, getting it across with sarcastic wit and lightness. The seemingly child-like, awkward line, however, is only an ostensible excuse for the issues addressed by these works.

Born in 1968 in Macclesfield, David Shrigley studied at the Glasgow School of Art from 1988 until 1991. He lives and works in Glasgow. Apart from exhibiting internationally, Shrigley is always intent on publishing his works in artist's books. In addition, he created animated clips for Bonnie "Prince" Billy and Blur. 2007 saw the launching of the double-CD set "Worried Noodles" with interpretations of Shrigley's lyrics and drawings by Franz Ferdinand, Hot Chip, Liars, Deerhoof, Dirty Projectors, Yacht, Scarlett's Well, Psapp, and Scout Niblett.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2008 BAWAG Foundation, Vienna
Anton Kern Gallery, NYC
CASM, Barcelona
Baltic, Gateshead, UK
Museum Ludwig, Cologne
- 2007 Stephen Friedman Gallery, I'Am Dead, London
Malmö Konsthall, Everything must have a Name, Malmö, Sweden
Galleri Nicolai Wallner, Copenhagen
- 2003 Kunsthaus Zürich, Zurich

Selected Collections

- Tate Britain, London
- Collection Lambert, Paris
- Sammlung des Kunsthaus Zürich
- Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art – MIMA, Middlesbrough
- Cal Cego - Colleccion de Arte Contemporaneo, Barcelona
- FRAC - Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Marseille