

Herrmann Germann Contemporary

Chad Burt

Soft Places

03 June – 16 July 2011

Opening, Wednesday 1 June, 6-9 p.m.

«I'm generally trying to fix something I probably just broke»
Chad Burt

Have you ever seen anything that reveals itself only through its absence?
– Chad Burt's works seize the viewer, evoke astonishment, and, as recounted in Plato's allegory of the cave, allow us to recognize the protagonists behind the shadows.

Burt's oeuvre starts out with painting, involves an installation-like approach, and often interrelates image and object in a partly self-referential manner. One such example is <Bkr Strt>, a work composed of a painting entitled <An incarnation of Gerry Rafferty appears above Baker Street...> and the audio-object <Baker Street Oracle>. Chad Burt allows his stories and their protagonists to communicate both among and with themselves.

Burt's paintings and installations include iconographic references and narrative-romantic approaches involving wistful, uncanny, and mystical elements. By expanding the particular into the general, and vice versa, he isolates an essential element of fiction, well known from the world of comic strips, and places it at the centre of his quest and analysis. Chad Burt shapes the extrasensory from the banal, allows the serious to keel over into the comic, and blends the premeditated with the coincidental. The quintessential characteristics of his work are ambivalence and metaphor.

Burt's thematic repetitions point to the sites of manipulation, such as the theatre, museums, shopping centres, and sacred places. The theme running through his work is the transcendental, indeed that which eludes our senses. Experience rather than understanding is crucial to what meets the eye in these works.

Perhaps Burt's humour allows viewers to enter into a non-didactic relationship with his art, and perhaps it also affords us a welcome opportunity to forget everyday rationality and common sense for a moment. –
Tomas Germann

Chad Burt was born in Digby, Nova Scotia (Canada) in 1978. He lives and works in London. He studied visual art at Mount Allison University, New Brunswick (Canada), and is currently doing his MFA in Fine Arts at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Further exhibitions of Chad Burt's works in 2011
14-18 July <Postgraduate – Private View>, Goldsmiths University of London

Kindly supported by Kyburz&Peck – English Language Projects & Real Time Society