

John Issacs

January **Private View** January 6pm till 9pm

Museum 52 is delighted to announce an exhibition of work by John Issacs, "Are we not the same you and I?"

"I have seen them stagger out of their movie palaces and blink their empty eyes in the face of reality once more, and stagger home, to read the Times, to find out what's going on in the world. I have vomited at their newspapers, read their literature, observed their customs, eaten their food, desired their women, gaped at their art." Ask the Dust – John Fante 1939

John Issacs' work encompasses many different medias, though much of it has its origins in sculpture. Best known for his large-scale human figures, these bodies are often of grotesque proportions and appear gruesomely real. Issacs' background as a biology student has meant his work is sometimes mistakenly categorised as part of the science-art genre. On the contrary, Issacs looks to art as a way to express his unease with some of the advances science has made in the last twenty years and the chaos that threatens to overwhelm us if we allow science to develop unchecked.

This exhibition is the story of isolated elements – the fractured cosmos.

The central element of the exhibition is a piece of rock-like flesh in which has been placed a video of people swimming and sunbathing around a hotel pool. It places the notion of tourism into a philosophical position of existentialism as the people featured in the video are in fact residing in a cave. Another sculpture is a leg standing alone, built to be the same proportion as the artist. Unable to be a complete body it is only a leg. The pathetic dumb nature of this object is reflected in other works in the exhibition, in particular the meaty abstract diptych "Are we not the same you and I?"

This piece will be accompanied by digitally-manipulated photographs of people taking part in demonstrations. The original slogans have been removed from the banners and replaced with anodyne, open-ended statements such as "Other People's Lives" and "What Makes Certain". The images have also been altered so that they appear grainy as though taken from newspapers, adding to the tension between the reportage style of the images and the vague ideas the people appear to be protesting about. Like much of Issacs' work, there is strong Romantic streak running through the piece, a sense that under the surface of our apparent isolation from one another lies a universal connection between us all.

Solo exhibitions include "Matrix of Amnesia" at Imperial College, London (1997), "Voices from the id" Beasonsfield, London (2002) & Aeroplastics, Belgium (2001) and "Dumb Planets are round too", VTO, London and Feigen Contemporary, New York (2002). Group exhibitions include "Wonderful Life", Lisson Gallery, London (1993), "Young British Artists 6", Saatchi Gallery, London (1996), "Spectacular Bodies", Hayward Gallery, London (2000), and "Century City", Tate Modern (2001).

Opening Hours

Monday – Friday By appointment – 020 7366 5571
Saturday 11am – 6pm

For further press information and images please contact:
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