

FOR SALE / MAY LET

Stuart McCaffer

Preview: Friday 7th September, 6.00 – 9.00pm

Sept 8th – Sept 23rd, 2012, 12 – 6pm

Open Thursday – Sunday, 12 – 6pm, or by appointment

Kingsgate Gallery presents FOR SALE / MAY LET an exhibition by artist Stuart McCaffer.

“The distance from my front door in Kensal Rise to my studio in Kilburn is 1.4 miles or 2.25 kilometres if you prefer metric. On the route there are 104 plastic estate agent signs sticking out of the front gardens of houses and flats dotting the way like wordy coloured lollypops. Most of these are now redundant and are left as advertisements for their respective companies showing how good they are at selling or renting properties in the area. It made me think, in these austere times why not do a real advert for these honest, well loved, honourable agent of dreams and real estate”.

The majority of McCaffer's past work deals in the illusion of reality. McCaffer uses three-dimensional photo realist spaces with the help of sound, light, film and the olfactory to disorientate the viewer into being somewhere else other than the false set that they are actually inhabiting. As these spaces usually (but not always) manifest themselves as free standing rooms the viewer is asked to participate from the start by taking the initiative of entering the space, the viewer's interaction with the space varies depending on the piece. The rooms are generic spaces that do not exist. The starting point for most of McCaffer's work is from memories. Is the smell of a wet earth floor the same now as it was then, is lichen really that colour or does the breeze, as it touches your cheek, feel as you know it should. You are in a place that you know to be fake but your senses tell you otherwise. Is your memory as fake as the surroundings?

Born in the year of our lord 1966 in Banbury to Harry and Jean McCaffer. Jean was present Harry decided instead to attend the TT racing on the Isle of Man. Schooled at Holytown Primary, Dunblane High and McLaren High in Callander. Stuart spectacularly failed all his exams and left school with next to no qualifications to pursue a life of hairdressing. After training at well-known Glasgow coiffurists he moved to Edinburgh and opened his own barbershop 'Saki and Flynn' which was situated next to Edinburgh College of Art. During this time Stuart was involved in the writing and production of four plays shown in Edinburgh Festival as well as in Dublin and London under the guise of White Rabbit Cowboys. After 10 years of cutting students and staff of the ECA he shut the shop and studied there

Kingsgate Gallery, Kingsgate Workshops Trust, 110-116 Kingsgate Road, London, NW6 2JG

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leaving in 2004 with a first in sculpture. In 2010 now with a wife and two girls he moved to London where he studied sculpture at the Royal College of Art. In the intervening years Stuart has been shortlisted for the Threadneedle Prize (2010) and been selected for the Bloomberg new contemporaries (2005) since leaving college he has worked with the Creative Mentor Foundation working with dyslexic children and The Making also working with children making artworks. Stuart is now living in London and is still available for haircuts.

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Notes for editors:

Kingsgate Workshops Trust is an artist' studio and a registered charity, dedicated to promoting education in the arts and crafts for public benefit.

For more information about our events, classes, exhibitions and other activities, please contact Adam Holmes-Davies at the KWT office (tel: 020 7328 7878), email: adam@kingsgategateworkshops.org.uk or visit our website: www.kingsgategateworkshops.org.uk.

Kingsgate Gallery is Kingsgate Workshops Trust in-house gallery showcasing 10 exhibitions a year of contemporary artists and crafts people.

In its 6th year at Kingsgate Workshops Trust, the KWT Emerging Artist residency provides 3 recently graduating artists and craftspeople with a subsidised studio and programme of support. Kingsgate Emerging Artist programme aims to:

- Provide space, time and resources for artists in the early stages of their career to support and develop their own practice.
- Build artists confidence within professional environment
- Establish and build upon existing artistic and audience opportunities within the London Borough of Camden, especially for those who have little access to, or experience of, contemporary visual arts.
- Establish and maintain young and upcoming creative talent within North West London by providing opportunities to work and exhibit

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