

Press Release
15.08.08

G a t t i

The London Canal Museum

A group show curated by Brooke Lynn McGowan

Open 20 September to 6 November 2008

Private View: Friday 19th 630 – 830pm

Nick Hornby
Abigail Hunt
Liane Lang
Patricia Lennox
Andy Parker
Kieren Reed
Sinta Tantra

Seven artists engage new work in a historic space, in *Gatti*, an homage to and appropriation of the narrative space of a 19th century ice cream-maker. The subtle slip of a mirror provoking subjective and citational memory; the slight rock of a Victorian chair sunk in a plaster slab; the silent call of the moniker of a boat's name from the South Atlantic Ocean: the work in this exhibition both evokes and renounces the determinant machinations of narrative, with monuments which are not; it is an exhibition *un*-curated. The narrative exigencies cobble upon one another the very place of the London Canal Museum.

It is at once a tribute to Carlo Gatti, a celebrated Victorian vendor of *gelati* and a setting for the investigation of the history of London's Regent's canal. Running over with maps of proposed, but never constructed waterways, the etymology of "legging it", a plastic horse, tin cans, and two hallowed, redolent, and reflective ice reserves, the space itself both invites and denies further occupation. To the tales told, we add our own.

For more information, please contact Brooke: brooke@gattiexhibition.com

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Notes to Editors

- The London Canal Museum, 12-13 New Wharf Road, London, N1 9RT 020 7713 0836

For more information please visit <http://www.canalmuseum.org.uk/>

- Public Opening Time 20 September – 6 November 2008,
Tues - Sunday 10am – 430pm, Closed Mondays

- Getting there

By Underground: Short walk from Kings Cross Tube

By Train: King's Cross and St. Pancras Stations

By Bus: 10 17, 30, 45, 46, 59, 63,73, 91, 205, 214, 259, 390, 479.

By car: Street parking is available after 1330 Saturdays and all day Sundays but is difficult at other times.

- The museum is fully accessible to disabled visitors.

• The London Canal Museum, is situated in the King's Cross area of London, England, beside Battlebridge Basin on the Regent's Canal. While the museum was only opened in 1992, the construction of the building dates to the 1860s, when it was in use as a warehouse for ice imported from Norway by ship and canal barge. There are two preserved ice wells under the building, one of which may be viewed from the public area of the museum. The import of ice responded generally for rising demand in Victorian England, but was also the specific entrepreneurial feat of Carlo Gatti, a Swiss-Italian immigrant, famous for making ice cream.

• The London Open House is the capital's highest-profile architectural showcase, providing opportunities for the public to explore more than 650 of London's exemplary buildings and to meet the architects, design teams and occupants on site. Celebrating design excellence in the capital, this unparalleled event takes place on the third weekend of September every year and is completely free of charge.* Open House aims to foster an appreciation and understanding of the value of architectural excellence and to showcase outstanding design. Architecture and urban design have a huge influence on the quality of our lives. Yet we lack a common language to express our needs and aspirations for the quality of our buildings and public spaces. The London Open House fills this gap. (*For London Open House The London Canal Museum will be Free on Saturday but not Sunday).

For more information please visit <http://www.openhouse.org.uk/>

Open House 44-46 Scrutton Street London EC2A 4HH +44 (0) 20 3006 7008 admin@openhouse.org.uk

• Brooke Lynn McGowan (b. California) is a writer, curator, and academic. Educated in United States, France, and Britain, Brooke received her graduate training in aesthetics theory at Cambridge University and possesses over seven years of professional experience in the arts, spanning three continents. Her most recent show, preceding the *Gatti* exhibition is *Constructs for Illumination*, on show at Allsopp Contemporary from the 5th of September to the 4th of October. She has a pending publication with the DOX Museum of Fine Art in Prague to be released in October 2008. Brooke holds positions as a Professor of Philosophy and Director of Studies in the History of Photography, both in Cambridge. She lives and works between London and Cambridge. For more information, visit <http://www.brookemcgowan.com>

For images and further information please contact:

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ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

NICK HORNBY (b. 1980, England) is interested in the multi-leveled narrative offered implicit in at once space and form. Producing a practice as archival as it is sculptural, Hornby seeks at once to invoke and confound narrative determinants by demanding that the viewer “excavate” his installed spaces. Running concurrently with *Gatti, Tell Tale Heart*, is a 21 foot model Disney-esque Castle which is floating in the Middle of the Pond in Camley Street Natural Park (located 5 minute walk from The Canal Museum). In 2008 Nick was part of *Anticipation* in Selfridges, winner of the *Clifford Chance Sculpture Prize* and subsequently the Artist featured in *Time Out's* “Star Makers” July issue. Nick has enjoyed exhibiting his work at Tate Britain, the Hayward Gallery, and the ICA. In 2009 he is doing a residency in Bratislava to develop a new work for the Embassy in London. For more information, please see: <http://www.nickhornby.org.uk/>

ABIGAIL HUNT (b. 1978, England) has an artistic practice based upon a procession of tasks: the investigative research of an image, the deconstruction of a line, the disablement of form and finally the reconstruction and reconfiguration of the object. She has shown at Whitechapel Art Gallery, Camden Arts Centre, Platform for Art, London Underground and EAST International. In addition her separate collaborative practice, with artist Kieren Reed (see below) involves a direct interaction with audience within manufactured and suggested situations. They are currently working on a commission for IKON Gallery, Birmingham and have recently shown works at The New Art Gallery Walsall, Studio Voltaire and the Folkestone Triennial Fringe. For a full CV please visit <http://www.abigailhunt.co.uk>

LIANE LANG (b. 1975, Germany) constructs images and videos that exist between narrative fiction and still life composition, exploring the practices of display and the exigencies of museology. Lang’s photographs occupy a space between documentation and stage, investigating animacy and an ambiguous state of sentience. Figures inhabit her work as spectral presences, simulating touch and sensation, engaged deeply in mock reflection, standing in for the absent and the absent minded. Educated at Goldsmiths and the Royal Academy Schools, Lang has enjoyed solo shows including *Fondling Germanicus*, Kunstverein, Heidelberg, Germany; *Verisimilitude*, T1+2 Artspace; *Offspace*, Vienna; and *Southfirst Art*, New York. For more information, please visit: <http://www.lianelang.com/>

PATRICIA LENNOX (b. 1980; England) is interested in multi-layered references and the play of both mirror and screen; her work utilizes found text to manifest the possibility of meaning—and evidence its irrevocable loss. While allowing the appropriated material to speak for itself, Lennox’s writing and installations provoke an engagement with the viewer/audience and their own subjective processes of memory/meaning. Patricia is currently studying for an MA at Chelsea College of Art and Design. In September 2008, she will be part of the group show *La Bete* at T1+2 Gallery Annex Projects. For more information, please visit: <http://www.patricialennox.com/>

ANDY PARKER (b.1978, England) produces work inspired by artifacts from the industrial revolution. Manifesting an evocative textual practice, Parker seeks to appropriate and cite cultural aspiration, in order to probe the metonymic message which lies there within. Parker has recently returned from a self-initiated residency on the Island of St Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean, where he produced a solo exhibition based on local stories and objects from this isolated naval outpost. Educated at the Royal College of London and the Wimbledon School of Art, Andy has enjoyed taking part in *Artfutures*, Contemporary Art Society, Bloomberg space, London and *Picante*, Deutsche Bank, London. For more information, please see: <http://andyp.co.uk/>

KIEREN REED (b. 1976, England) takes an interest in the relationship between functioning and non-functioning objects – the real and the fabricated. Though often concerned with mechanism, his practice encompasses research, sculpture, performance, and installation, from studies in form to the production of architectural structures. Kieren has recently shown at *Art Futures*, Contemporary Art Society, Bloomberg Space, London and in 2007 had solo shows at Ritter Zamet, London and at Quay Arts, Isle of Wight. He also works in collaboration with artist Abigail Hunt (see <http://www.kadn.co.uk> for further details of their shared practice). For a full CV please visit <http://www.kierenreed.co.uk/>

SINTA TANTRA (b. 1979, New York) works in a variety of media to manifest a playful and often seductive visuality. Comfortable in the use of and experimentation with excitements of color, Tantra’s work provokes the attention she seeks from audiences as an artist; her practice extends and understands her fervent dedication to Public Arts. Recent public commissions have been for the Southbank Centre, Canterbury Christchurch University, Camden Council, CreateKX, Transport for London and London Fashion Week. She has won numerous awards including the prestigious Deutsche Bank Pyramid Award in 2006, the Henry Moore Postgraduate Award 2006, the Gordon Luton Award 2006 and Westminster City Council’s Civic Award in 2007. Featured by the *Evening Standard Magazine's* “Bright Young Things” in 2006, Sinta was listed as one of the top fifty creative talents under thirty working in London. For more information please visit: <http://www.sintatantra.co.uk/>