

Gavin Murphy

Moving Deaths

March 7 – 28

Gallery

In his series of works entitled *Moving Deaths*, Irish artist Gavin Murphy draws from an intertextual palette, combining the fictive and the factual, literature and philosophical thought, in order to pose concerns regarding time, existence, the history of ideas, and the future of said history. Murphy's practice is related through an essayistic form of sculptural assemblage, made of unique fabricated elements and reclaimed materials; sourced and found objects; video, photography and text. Carefully setting up a series of oppositions, the aesthetic methodology relies on prior knowledge, yet eschews any attempt toward the didactic. In this, the work celebrates the inevitable uncertainty that is, in a post-enlightenment world, the reward of investigation.

The works in *Moving Deaths* invoke a web spun from various sources - Ludwig Boltzmann's theories relating to entropy and probability; the doodles of pioneering film distributor W.W. Hodkinson; man's relationship with nature and with time; texts by or found in, Delmore Schwartz, Milan Kundera, Nietzsche, and Montaigne; and the plastic possibilities of cinematic structures and *mise en scène*. As a dialogue between generations of thought and representation, the work is formed upon meandering connections, and the *removal* of the links between things.

Gavin Murphy is a Dublin based artist and curator. He was co-coordinator of *House Projects* – a series of seven exhibitions in New York, London and Ireland, and was editor of the publication of the same name. He is co-curator of the art space Pallas Contemporary Projects in Dublin. He is the recipient of various awards including an Arts Council Bursary Award (2008), and a residency at Fire Station Artists' Studios (from June 2009). His exhibition at Conical is to be followed by a residency at Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces.

Previous solo exhibitions include: Institute of Contemporary Art, Newtown (Sydney); The Lab, in 2008, and Four gallery, in 2006 (both Dublin); recent group shows include: Tulca, Galway, and the 3-person show *Frontier* with Dublin gallery Green on Red, both 2008; and with UK gallery Colony, in their Birmingham space and at Zoo Art Fair, London, both 2007.



List of Works

Monument to W.W. Hodgkinson, 2008

(Gavin Murphy & Sinead Gray)

Framed print, 295 x 230 mm

Nature Morte/The kind of motion we call heat, 2008 (remade 2009)

Lamp with incandescent light bulb, olive tree, plastic bucket, fan, extension cable, amplifier & speaker, with audio (10' loop)

Tree approximately 1.8 metres in height, other dimensions variable

Again, suddenly I could see us, 2008

Video with audio (4' 30" loop), speaker and fabricated plinth

Monitor and plinth 170 x 59 x 41 cm, other dimensions variable

Light cares can speak but heavy ones are dumb, 2008

Hardwood, fabricated plastic, fluorescent tubes and fittings, 1.8 x 2.6 x 2.6 m

And this, or 'And this slow spider that creeps along in the moonlight, and this moonlight itself, and I and you at this gateway whispering together, whispering of eternal things – must we not all have been here before?' 2008

Framed Polaroid, 160 x 160 mm