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Press Release

BANAL CIRCUS

Private view: Friday- 10th August, 6pm -9pm
Exhibition: 11th August – 8th September
Open: Mon- Sat
10.00am– 6.00pm
Entry: **FREE ENTRY**



As part of Novas’ summer programme, the exhibition “Banal Circus” features work of fifteen international emerging artists using theatricality as a device to deal with issues highlighting the spectacle within everyday life and the way in which it subverts and distorts our perception of reality. In this way, the works presented blur the boundaries between personal identity and superficiality.

The artists have focussed on subject matter ranging from rural carnivals, images from costume rental websites, non-spaces, such as club toilets and prostitutes hallways, as well as uncanny mannequins and subverted figurative sculptures.

Marie-Amelie Tondu has photographed club toilets during the election of “Miss club south of France” while Jason Little paintings document in a trashy personal way the tension emanating from prostitutes hallways in Soho.

In his video “Carnival Season”, George Morris ironically reveals the paradoxical aspect of a Rural Carnival ritual, playing with the ambiguity of entertainment and hyperreality.

Ailsa Ferrier’s posters underline the absurdity of a mistaken reality, through filmic and theatrical language, while Chiho Iwase’s work focuses more on the unconscious and the abject aspect of repressed memories, presenting grotesque and uncanny figurative sculptures.

Overall, Banal Circus exhibition highlights the role of fetishism and kitsch within consumer society. Banality becomes the spectacle in which the tragi-comic aspect of life is exposed.

The grotesque and irony are combined with more sentimental and romantic expressions, creating mysterious relationships between the work and the viewer.

Banal Circus presents the work of:

Eleni Bagaki, Antonakis Christodoulou, Lucy Coggle, Ailsa Ferrier, Chiho Iwase, Thomas I’ Anson, Michael James Jones, Julian King, Jason Little, Eleana Louka, Georgina McIntyre, George Morris, Anne-Laure Ponsin, Marina Tolstoukhine and Marie-Amelie Tondu.

Curated by Anne-Laure Ponsin.

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ABOUT NOVAS:

The novas Contemporary Urban Centre is part of novas arts a subsidiary of the Novas Group, where we aim to change lives through arts, enterprise and support.

The Group has developed a strong reputation for the delivery of quality housing and community-based services, and for new and innovative approaches to working with people who experience inequality, exclusion and discrimination.

More recently we are developing extensive work, learning, social enterprise and cultural services to support our core work and to match and stretch the diverse aspirations of the people we support.

*The **Novas Contemporary Urban Centre** is a new idea for the 21st Century. An Arts, Cultural and Social enterprise, the Novas Contemporary Urban Centre will reflect the themes of contemporary life in the urban environment, particularly from the point of view of marginalised and excluded communities. By celebrating, exploring and engaging with the vibrant yet latent talent of the dispossessed, Novas aims to break the cycle of poverty and exclusion.*

*Few social problems have had so visible a place on the urban landscape as homelessness and exclusion and **novas arts'** mantra is dedicated to exposing broad and diverse audiences to its themes. A goal for novas arts is to provide a creative forum for participants to express their feelings and use their experiences to create better understanding of the themes and issues involved. Another goal is to help generate compassion for people who truly need and want help to change their lives and engage with the world around them.*



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