

PRESS RELEASE...

Never be Seen

The Baxter Gallery, Queen Elizabeth II Building,
Kingston Grammar School, London Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT2 6PY

9 December 2006 - 29 January 2007

Gallery open most Saturday mornings, Tuesday's & Thursday's
(check www.art-3.co.uk/neverbeseen for a more detailed schedule)

Preview: Thursday 14 December 6.30-8.30 PM

Art 3 proudly presents 'Never Be Seen' featuring 10 Artists:-

Stevie Deas, Pete Mountford, Jane Stothert, Sarah Sparkes, Leonard Vucinic, Trafford Parsons, Sooz Belnavis, Chris Klein, Ella Berthoud, Letitia Tunstall

A collection of paintings, drawings, digital photographs, prints and other mixed media works that are united by their being predominately red and/or green in hue. This could be interpreted by some to be a cynical attempt to exploit the psychology of the festive season despite the fact that most of the work has very little to do with Christmas. The germ of the idea came from a throw away remark - by a West end Gallery dealer - to Pete Mountford, that he should produce more red/green works for them to sell at Christmas time. The distinctive layout of The Baxter Gallery facilitates this concept, as not only can the works be viewed individually in the gallery, they can collectively be seen from the busy street outside - through the fantastic vistas of the windows - allowing a fleeting glimpse of the overall display to submerge into the 'psyche' of those passing.

Scottish born artist **Stevie Deas** produces in 'Trees 1&2' simple line drawings causing a double vision effect that refer to the intoxication which abounds at this time of year and the sale of 'fake' Christmas trees. **Pete Mountford** has frequently related colours to specific systems in his work, underpinned by 'Cuisenaire rods', the numbers 2,3 & 6 equate to red, light green and dark green respectively, 'This Configuration' is not actually a work in itself, but a flexible arrangement of numbers and wave patterns that cross-communicate with the oeuvre of this exhibition. The formal colour theories of Joseph Albers inspire much of **Jane Stothert's** work. 'Into Grey I' applies & blends the complementary colours in such a way that the misty grey ground is transcendental. The fabulously grotesque wallpapers found in **Sarah Sparkes's** adolescent drinking haunts in Reading- and the memories such patterns might call up - instigate works like 'The Maiden Over'. **Leonard Vucinic** photographs mainly flowers and foliage at close quarters, to produce colourful digital Giclee images that are at home in both graphic and abstract contexts. Cutesy or sinister? **Trafford Parsons** presents 'Red Blofeld's Cat' a silkscreen print from his acclaimed 'Monsters & Mascots' series, reflecting on the iconic pet of James Bond's most notorious nemesis. As a former fashion and textiles student **Sooz Belnavis's** paintings are not only an exploration of the brush mark and surface tension of the picture plane, they use nail varnish and tape in relation to a culture in pursuit of a quick fix of perishable consumables and ever changing fashions. Whether working with digital imagery or painting the subject matter and the approach have remained consistent for **Chris Klein** who in the 'Wave on wave' series uses colours and systems as a means of forcing dynamics in his work that he intends to be perceptual rather than conceptual. It is the woods of Hertfordshire near to where she lives that inform the paintings of **Ella Berthoud**. Her work follows some Impressionist ideals and also indicates traces of Paul Nash and Pollock 'drip paintings'. 'Bourbelles' a mono print by **Letitia Tunstall** is probably the closest to a Christmas image in 'Never be seen' in its explorations of symbolic colours and patterns. The artist applies cyan, magenta and yellow adding and removing ink to allow the colours to fuse together.

Kingston Grammar School is delighted to host this exciting exhibition in its landmark Baxter Gallery, part of their state-of-art Queen Elizabeth II building. The glass-fronted, London Road gallery will offer a superb showcase for the collection.