

PAUL CAPORN RECONSTRUCTION WORKS

EMILY MABEE LIGHT

17 April – 16 May 2009
opening 6 - 8pm Friday 17 April

Two new exhibitions at Turner Galleries both deal with paint, process and construction.

Paul Caporn will exhibit two major new installations in the main gallery. A bright yellow excavator sitting atop a pile of yellow discarded plastic will greet visitors as they enter. Whilst reminiscent of an oversize Tonka toy it is not without a sense of humour, but as with all of Paul's artworks there is an underlying cultural and social commentary. He noted, "The title of some of the works and what they are made from, or are representing, does reference current economic and environmental issues, but I am not trying to be moralistic - it just sort of happened that way... I have a long-standing interest in the idea that the relationship we have with the world is an experience that is mediated through language and the things that we develop, make and use to express and manipulate our surroundings." The excavator, titled *The Golden Age*, is constructed from bright yellow plastic bins, normally used for recycling or industrial spill kits. It climbs the rubble of its own by-products and perhaps, as its title suggests, the utopian golden era it represents will end in destruction.

Accompanying the excavator will be a building crane, created from PE foam mats, the type of material often used in play centres for a soft fall surface. The building crane has always been such a strong visual symbol of a city's financial status; think of the Dubai skyline thick with cranes, and our own skyline over the past few years and in the heady years of the mid 1980s. But this is a flaccid crane, and its title of *Slump*, with its variety of meanings, fits both the physical description of the artwork and what is currently happening in our economy. Measuring some eight meters long, *Slump* collapses in a corner of the gallery and reaches out towards the viewer.

Also on display by Paul will be a range of smaller works and installations, including a series of plastic bug catchers with neon industrial symbols trapped inside and a wall mounted work constructed from builder's levels. Paul originally trained as a painter, graduating in 1994 with Honours from Curtin University, and this exhibition will also include painting, but created with an industrial process rather than a brush. He commented that these paintings are "in some ways performative and relate back to artists and work involving process and time, which for me in many ways relates to the idea of labour."

Paul's last solo exhibition, *Modified*, is currently touring regional galleries around Australia.

On display in the Turner Galleries front entry room will be an exhibition of new work by **Emily Mabee**. Emily is becoming well known for her beautifully constructed woven paintings. That's right, she actually weaves paint. The weaving process creates fabulous optical illusions and patterns, emphasised by her exquisite choice of colours. Emily also carves paintings. She builds up thick layers of paint, sometimes in varying layers of colours, then carves into the surface allowing the off cuts to dangle in fringes.

Emily Mabee graduated in 2000 from Curtin University with Honours. This is her second solo exhibition and she has participated in numerous group shows.

Please do not hesitate to contact staff on 08 9227 1077 or email info@turnergalleries.com.au should you require more information or images from these exhibitions. Exhibition works will be available to view on line: www.turnergalleries.com.au and both artists are available for interviews. Paul Caporn's exhibition is supported by the Department of Culture and the Arts (Mid Career Fellowship) and the Australian Government Visual Arts & Craft Strategy.



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