

# SMALL WORKS

A GROUP EXHIBITION OF SWEDISH  
AND CANADIAN ARTISTS



## INVITATION TO THE VERNISSAGE

**PLACE:** COUTURE GALLERI, BIRGER JARLSGATAN 26

**TIME:** 28 OF APRIL 2011 FROM 17:30 TO 20:00

WITH THE ATTENDANCE OF CAMILLA PYK AND JAN THAM.

**EXHIBITION** FROM APRIL 28TH TO MAY 11TH, 2011

**COUTUREGALLERI**  
CONTEMPORARY ART SPACE

## **ARTIST TYLER BENEDICT ON THE EXHIBITION “SMALL WORKS”:**

As a portrait painter, I sometimes wonder whether every painting or piece of art isn't a self-portrait of sorts, executed to explore and accord with, even to expand the artist's sense of self. In the case of the artists selected for this exhibition, the collective portrait that emerges most readily is one that reinforces our perception of the two countries from which the artists hail. In Canada, where I live, the persistent question of what it means to be Canadian can be frustratingly hard to answer. In such a vast geography, the individual is constantly reminded of his smallness in the greater scheme of things - witness Mike Bayne's mundane suburban homes or Gwenessa Lam's aerial surveillance drawings - and this sense of scale bears itself out in many Canadians as a curious blend of humility and autonomy. I suspect that in Sweden, as in Canada, modest values and a cultivated taciturnity never quite preclude a pride of place, in both senses of the phrase.

By contenting themselves with deeply personal small-format work, most of the painters and sculptors in this exhibit are perhaps, like their native countries, risking not being heard - risking being drowned out by the conceptually strident, often gargantuan installations sought by large, art-collecting institutions as conquests and calling cards - emblems of prestige or power. Several of us in this exhibition are friends, however our art is admittedly distinct from each other's - it resists mass-definition and insists, while maintaining a respectful dialogue with neighbouring work, on existing alone, on a small scale, below the din of the art world's dominant conversations.

We hope that you will take time to consider these small works and their various authors - that you navigate the exhibition as you would a group of friends, none too entreaty of your attentions, but each committed to a quiet, thoughtful - and with luck even memorable - conversation.

**MIKE BAYNE**

Born 1977 in Ottawa, CA. Lives in Kingston, CA.



BLUE WAGON, OIL ON WOOD PANEL, 10 CM X 15 CM, 2010



“Mike Bayne’s exquisitely rendered paintings capture North American scenes that are familiar and iconic. At first glance, they are often mistaken for small photographs; yet, they somehow capture a reality that photographs are unable to. There is an aura of the unbelievable in Bayne’s deliberately banal subjects, a determined skill that precisely captures every nuance of the scene – the isolation, the stillness, the quality of light, the richness of colour, the extreme attention to detail in every reflection, every surface, every blade of grass. While Bayne’s work commonly depicts human absence and isolation, the viewer often gets a sense of “being there,” the result of such an accurate depiction.” – Katharine Mulherin

**TYLER BENEDICT**

Born 1977 in Kingston, CA. Lives in Toronto, CA.



QUARTERLESS: (FEIST), OIL ON PANEL, 30 CM X 40 CM, 2011

Tyler Benedict's meticulously rendered portraits of friends and fellow artists begin with his subjects standing under overcast skies in the alleyways of his Toronto neighbourhood. Asked to assume the most neutral non-pose while he takes 3 or 4 source photographs, the sitters invariably betray their amusement at the discomfort of being examined, revealing in the process an aspect of themselves all the more subtle for its genuineness, the more genuine for its subtlety. His backgrounds, too, are neutral and devoid of narrative. Yet somehow this neutrality refocusses our attention on the vitality of the figure, revealing scrutiny itself - both the artist's and the viewer's - as the true subject of Benedict's paintings.

## **GWENESSA LAM**

Born 1978 in Vancouver, CA. Lives in Vancouver, CA.



BRNO, CZECH REPUBLIC, PENCIL ON PAPER, 20 CM X 25 CM, 2009

Gwenessa's paintings and drawings investigate the intersection between the perception, memory, and representation of place. Her work depicts intimate interiors, shadowy objects, and blurred aerial maps, all suggesting locations or situations we may have come across. These images take an interest in our everyday experience of space, from the privacy of one's room to the omniscient Internet map. However, each level of experience is starkly removed from its original context - objects are plucked from their rooms, a scene is stripped of its furnishings or out of focus. These slight shifts heighten feelings of disquiet and the uncanny, providing alternative views that re-evaluate one's physical relationship to locations both actual and imagined.

**CAMILLA PYK**

Born 1966 in Stockholm, SE. Lives in Stockholm, SE.



KATASTROF, MIXED TECHNIQUE, 20 CM X 20 CM, 2009

About her paintings, Camilla writes: "My paintings reflect the meeting between myself, now, color and shape. I am lustfully intrigued by drama meeting. Sometimes, I am the most important character. Something might need clarification for me to understand it. Another time, a feeling, a season or a light is the strongest driver. But usually, perhaps most often, it's the dynamics between color and shape that consumes and wins the struggle of my concentration."

**MADELEINE PYK**

Born 1934 in Stockholm, SE. Lives in Stockholm, SE.



MIXED TECHNIQUE, 18 CM X 22 CM, 1980

Madeleine Pyk is one the most well-known and appreciated artist in Sweden. Her naive paintings are usually set in environments filled with people and animals in humorous situations.

**JAN THAM**

Born 1948 in India. Lives in Stockholm, SE.

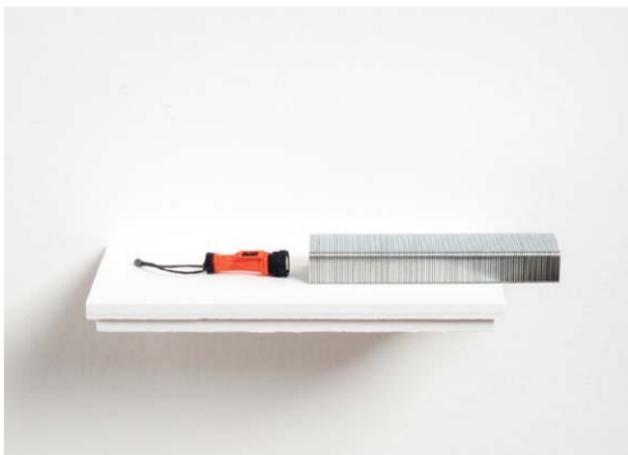


THE NEEDLES EYE, INKJET P.G.P.P., 40 CM X 40 CM, 2011

Jan Tham has lived a large part of his childhood in India. For more than 30 years, Tham has been working as a photographer with the interior design, garden and food specialties. Not until quite recently, Jan understood the degree to which his upbringing influenced him: the energy, the colors, the irrational sense, the chaos and the spiritual. Through art photography, Jan found a way to channel his impressions.

**CYBÈLE YOUNG**

Born 1972 in Toronto, CA. Lives in Toronto, CA.



THE OTHER END, SCULPTURE MADE OF JAPANESE PAPER, 37 CM X 37 CM X 5 CM FRAMED, 2011

Young creates sculptural works from fine Japanese papers often printed from etched copperplates. Her inspirations come from fleeting day-to-day experiences while her creativity flourishes in the mundane, where small observations become fantastic. The results are works that emerge from familiar motifs abstracted by passing impressions. Young compiles these sculptures to create communities that interact and form new relationships – much like how the small seemingly insignificant moments in our everyday lives can come together to create unexpected outcomes.

## BIOGRAPHIES

**MIKE BAYNE** attended Queen's University and received a BAH and BFA in 2001. In 2004, he received an MFA from Concordia University. He has had several solo exhibitions in Toronto and has participated in a number of group exhibitions in Chicago, New York, Vancouver, and Toronto. He was featured in the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art's group exhibition Magenta Publishing Carte Blanche, in 2008, and was featured in a 2009 issue of Border Crossings magazine. His most recent exhibition is 2010's Oil Paintings by Robert Ayre, a joint presentation of Katharine Mulherin Contemporary Art Projects in Toronto and Mulherin/Polard Projects in New York.

**TYLER BENEDICT** attended Queen's University and received a BAH in English Literature with a minor in Film Studies. In Montreal, he worked at Galerie de Bellefeuille, the gallery for which he now paints. He has participated in several group shows at Galerie de Bellefeuille and will have his first solo show with that gallery in December 2011. This is Tyler Benedict's first exhibition in Sweden.

**GWENESSA LAM** is a visual artist and educator. Her artwork stems from interests in perception and the compression of time and memory within images. Gwenessa received her BFA from the University of British Columbia and MFA from New York University. She has taught at New York University, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, the University of British Columbia, and the Art Institute of Vancouver. She has attended residencies at Skowhegan, MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, and the Banff Centre. Her work has been exhibited at the Bronx Museum of Art and the Queens Museum of Art in New York.

Over the years, **CAMILLA PYK** has been very active with a large number of exhibitions all over Sweden and abroad. She has had commissions for example for the Jewish Community, SEB, Lantmännens and Södra Skogsägarnas. Camilla Pyk is currently represented, amongst other, at Sörmlands Museum and Art Gallery Lidingö. In 2001 she was appointed by DN Expressen as Artist of the Year and in 2002, picture of the year by the art society Våga Se.

**MADELEINE PYK** studied at the National College of Art in Stockholm from 1951 to 1955 and at the Art Academy in Stockholm 1963-1967. She debuted in 1965 at Lilla Paviljongen in Stockholm. She has illustrated many books and also published her own. Through the years she has had many solo exhibitions around Sweden and abroad, such as Rome, Paris and Amsterdam. Madeleine Pyk is represented in a number of museums, including Moderna Museet in Stockholm. She has also made a number of decorations in public places such as AB Vin och Sprit in Gröndal, Stockholm and KF's premises in Stockholm.

**JAN THAM** has participated in numerous books and also carried out 3 of his own book projects. He has recently exhibited his photography works in 2 shows about peoples' inherent innovative, bright and dark sides, symbolized by a light bulb. Other subjects he reflected upon in his previous exhibitions were "the Mother and the Madonna", "traffic, a stylized, choreographed and poetic reflection". In 2010, his photographs of "the everyday heroes" were exhibited at Mobila Konst-

hallen in Stockholm and "Shanghai 22" at Berns Asiatiska in Stockholm.

**CYBÈLE YOUNG** graduated from the Ontario College of Art and Design in 1996 and has since exhibited internationally, obtaining many grants and awards along the way. She has also received considerable notice in publications such as Art in America, Globe and Mail, Toronto Star, NOW, MacLean's, Toronto Life, Canadian Art, and Elle. In 2000 Young was nominated for a Governor General's Award for Children's Illustration.

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BIRGER JARLSGATAN 26  
114 34 STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN  
TELEPHONE: +46 (0) 734 267 018

OPENING HOURS:  
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY FROM 12:00 TO 18:00  
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FROM 12:00 TO 16:00

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