



Mutare Animam, super 8 film transferred to DVD, 15 minutes, 2012

EXHIBITION
Wexford Arts Centre

Secretly, we thirst for reality
by Cecilia Danell

Cecilia Danell

Secretly, we thirst for reality

Emerging Visual Artist Award Winner 2011

Tuesday 27th November – Monday 24th December 2012

"Dreams are never content to expound a single thought. Which is how dreams become entangled with conscious fantasy and accurate memory"

Susan Sontag, Death Kit.

Cecilia Danell was the recipient of the 2011 Emerging Visual Artist Award, a partnership initiative between the Arts Council, Wexford County Council and Wexford Arts Centre. The initiative is aimed at recognising and supporting the development of emerging artists with a monetary award and a solo exhibition at Wexford Arts Centre.

For this exhibition, Danell has continued her research into landscape and the built environment, using both as a metaphor for the human condition, with special focus on the aspects of psychology dealing with disengagement from the self. With an interest in the role of the unconscious, Danell undertook studies on the work of Carl Jung, with a particular emphasis on his theory of archetypes and how unresolved tensions manifest in behaviour. Through film, painting and mixed media, Danell has explored these areas of interest, and as in previous works, reveals the process of making to the viewer as a means of citing internal thought processes.



Solitude made Easy, oil and acrylic on canvas, 121 x 152cms, 2012

The places and specific buildings in the works are sites from the artist's childhood home in Sweden which she recently revisited. The large-scale painting entitled *In the forest of the secret depths*, depicts a pre-historic cave which is situated near her family farm in Motala, Co. Östergötland. The cave has a curious tale woven into its history as it was allegedly used by thieves to store their ill-gotten bounty in the 19th century. For this purpose a flat stone was re-attached to the entrance of the cave where a sign now stands, erected by the local heritage society, retelling the story. Another painting entitled *Solitude made easy*, depicts a function room from one of Sweden's oldest health spas, Medevi. In the work, empty chairs sit expectantly in front of a wall-painting of a landscape. There is a prevailing sense of anticipation – waiting for the chairs to be occupied and for something to happen in the scene depicted. The setting is opulent and harkens back to a time when recreation and leisure, circa 1900, were carefully considered pursuits. It was also an era where societal roles and behaviours were strictly codified and rigorously adhered to. Curiously enough it was precisely this tightly vacuumed atmosphere as represented in this work which inspired the research into the role of the unconscious and its influence on the formation of character/identity. Danell's empty function room raises questions about what is going on behind the scenes, alluding to former lives and the roles, habits and norms which construed the individual's identity. The cave in the former painting reinforces themes of knowledge and self awareness, being a long-used metaphor for such, and these ideas are reinforced by Danell's use of thinly applied paint as the image seems to float on the surface of the canvas without a proper adherence to its support. Is the artist conveying a sense that identity, self knowledge and memory are slippery things, constantly changing shape?

In the Forest of the Secret Depths, oil and acrylic on canvas, 152 x 182cms, 2012



continued

The subject of identity is also explored in the film work entitled *Mutare Animam*. In the film a figure, who is clearly tormented, climbs and crawls through various landscapes. His identity is concealed as he wears a mask which you sense allows him the freedom to act on his baser instincts. The series of ink drawings which accompany the film also reveal a raw and unhindered energy as they are composed of rapid markings which drip and splatter towards the lower half of the picture plane. Much of the work in the exhibition reveals the materials and processes of making. Paint drips and eschews the image, leaving us in no doubt that the image Danell is presenting us with is a constructed one, maybe in a similar way as the image we present to others is constructed partly real and partly fabricated as a result of experience.

Born in Sweden, Cecilia Danell graduated with a Degree in Fine Art in 2008 from GMIT, Galway and was awarded the AIB Paint Student of the Year. Since graduating Danell has had a solo exhibition in the Talbot Gallery, Dublin and participated in numerous group exhibitions both in Ireland and America. She was a recipient of an Arts Council Bursary Award in 2010 and an Arts Council Project Award in 2011.

Salt Lick, oil and acrylic on canvas, 55 x 55cms, 2012

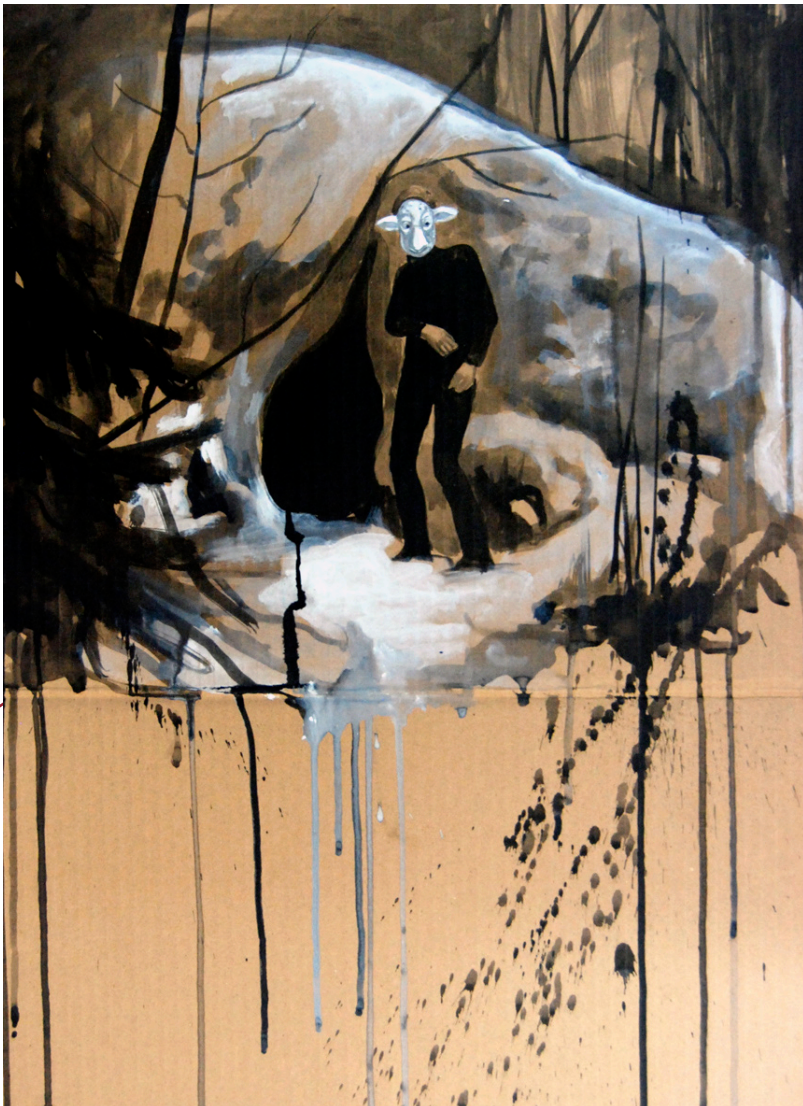


Awards

- * The Tyrone Guthrie Centre Residency Award, Galway City Council 2011.
- * Arts Council of Ireland, Project Award "Build your own: Scandinavian Loneliness" 2011.
- * Arts Council of Ireland, Visual Arts Bursary Award, 2010.
- * Liljesonska Stiftelsen, Co Östergötland, Sweden. Young Artists' Training Award 2009.
- * AIB Paint Student of the Year Award 2008.
- * Emerging Artist Award, Claremorris Open 2007.

Solo Exhibitions

- * Secretly, we thirst for reality Wexford Arts Centre, Wexford 2012.
- * The Consoling Dream Necessity, Talbot Gallery, Dublin, 2012.
- * You had another skin (the Super 8 series), EIGHT, Galway, 2011.
- * Ard Bia at Nimmo's, selection of works, Galway, 2010.



Mutare Animam, ink on cardboard, dimensions variable, 2012

Group Shows / Events

2012

- * (forthcoming) Fast moving consumer goods, Christmas Exhibition, Talbot Gallery, Dublin.
- * Tulca Season of Visual Arts Galway, curated by: Gregory McCartney
- * Latency Engage Studios members, The Linenhall Arts Centre, Castlebar. Curator: Michael Cutaya.
- * (Non)fiction Two person show with Darren Barrett, Ballina Arts Centre.
- * #008000 Selected Engage Studios members, The Shed, Galway. Curated by: Grace McEvoy.
- * Hyperopia Clifden Arts festival. Curated by: Shelly McDonnell.
- * Impressions '12 Print exhibition, Galway Arts Centre. Selected by: Norman Ackroyd.
- * The Museum Of Miniatures Skibbereen Arts Festival. Curated by: Tess Leak and Marie Brett.
- * Solstice Cork Midsummer Festival, The Elysian, Cork. Curated by: Aoife Flynn.

2011

- * Live@8 on Tour, The Exchange, Temple Bar, Dublin.
- * Wrapping up for Christmas, Gallery artists, Talbot Gallery, Dublin.
- * VUE: National Contemporary Art Fair RHA, Dublin. Represented by Talbot Gallery.
- * Hammer and feather - experiments in space, Niland Gallery, Galway. Curator: Mary Conlon.
- * Live@8 on tour, Occupy Space, Limerick collaborative wall installation with Majella Dowdican.
- * Video Screening, Atlantis Collective book launch, Cúirt festival of literature, Galway.
- * Ispini Agus Subh, GMIT graduates of 2008 reunion. Lorg Printmakers Gallery, Galway.

Wolf in the Breast, oil on linen, 30 x 30cms, 2012



2010

- * Tulca Festival of Visual Arts, Niland Gallery, Galway. Curator: Michelle Browne.
- * Claremorris Open Exhibition 2010, Claremorris, Co Mayo. Curator: Lisa Le Feuvre.
- * That robot ain't candy, three person show, Mad Art Gallery, Dublin.
- * Enrage, Engage studios members, White Room Gallery, Galway Arts Festival. Curator: Ian McInerney.
- * Outside:Insight Brigit's Garden, Rosscahill, Co Galway.
- * Dock Discourse 126 Gallery, Galway. Curator: Aoife Considine.
- * (Un)Familiar Galway Arts Centre. Curator: Maeve Mulrennan
- * (Un)Familiar Red House Arts Center, Syracuse, NY. Curator: Maeve Mulrennan.

2009

- * 10x10 White Room Gallery, Galway. Curator: Anna McCarthy
- * Elaion at Lunasa Galway Arts Centre
- * Dock discourse project launch, Video screening, Bar no. 8, Galway. Curator: Aoife Considine.
- * A secret place, Engage studios members, during Galway Arts Festival.
- * Centre-Line, Engage studios members, Volvo Ocean Race, Galway. Curator: Victoria McCormack
- * 126 Members show swap, Catalyst Arts, Belfast
- * 126 Members show, 126 Gallery, Galway.

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continued

2008

- * A space without rules Live @ bar no. 8 Video screening, Tulca season of visual arts
- * Here and elsewhere, Crow Gallery, Dublin, two person show with Nicky Larkin. Curator: Maeve Mulrennan.
- * GMIT Honours Degree show, Cluain Mhuire campus.

2007

- * Claremorris Open Exhibition 2007 Curator: Ingrid Swenson.
- * GMIT Degree Show, Cluain Mhuire campus.

Education

Bachelor - Honours Degree in Fine Art (Painting) with First Class honours.
Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, 2007 - 2008.

Bachelors - Degree of Art and Design (Painting) with Distinction.
Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology 2004 - 2007.

Reviews

- * Sue Rainsford, "Cecilia Danell: The Consoling Dream Necessity at Talbot Gallery." Paper Visual Arts Journal 9th April 2012.
- * Jeanette Donnelly, "The award winners Derek Fortas and Cecilia Danell" www.Artforartssake.org January 2012.
- * Aidan Dunne, "Elsewhere at Galway Arts Festival" The Irish Times 21st July 2010.
- * Nancy keefe Rhodes, "Redhouse Irish: Galway Arts Centre returns a second year" Syracuse City Eagle 18th March 2010.
- * Michaele Cutaya, Degree show critic's choice, Circa125, Contemporary visual culture in Ireland, Autumn 2008.



Secretly, we thirst for reality will run in Wexford Arts Centre from Tuesday 27th November to 2pm on Monday 24th December, 2012.

For further information on the exhibition, artist or Emerging Visual Artist Award please contact Catherine Bowe, Visual Art Manager of the Wexford Arts Centre on 053 9123764 or email catherine@wexfordartscentre.ie. Wexford Arts Centre gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of Wexford County Council and the Arts Council.

EXHIBITION

Wexford Arts Centre

Gallery opening hours:
Monday – Saturday: 10.00am – 5.30pm

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