

POT LUCK

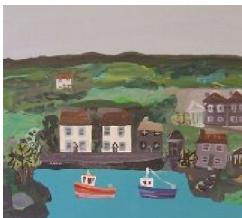
Aberystwyth Arts Centre

Wed 29 July-Wed 23 Sept

Whether it's fair trade, organic, or artery-clogging junk food, what we eat has never been such a political 'hot potato'. The right time, then, for an exhibition like *Pot Luck*. This cornucopia of contemporary art features some of the most acclaimed artists of this century, including Damien Hirst, Antony Gormley, Mona Hatoum and Subodh Gupta. The exhibition includes both one and two-dimensional work including Gormley's *Bread Line* – which is literally that, a line of bread pieces. Its eerie simplicity reminds you of *Hansel And Gretel* but also how food and poverty are so unavoidably linked. Then there is Damien Hirst's take on food labelling with his *Last Supper*, a series of screen-printed pharmaceutical-style food packets offering up traditional British favourites including a Cornish pasty, beans and chips and salad tablets. These retro looking designs feature some wonderful typography but also speak volumes about our relationship (or lack of it) with our food and when it comes from.

If that isn't enough to whet your appetite, how about dining in the life-size Chinese restaurant created by Karen Tam. Instead of chicken chow mein, this piece aims to serve up a feast of ideas on what the traditional Chinese restaurants of the West actually say about the way we perceive Chinese culture and its food. This theme is continued in Anthony Key's *China Garden*, a recreation of his local Chinese takeaway in Streatham, London, which is kitted out in flattened foil food containers.

The idea of gluttony is explored in Gayle Chong Kwan's *Cockaigne*. This series of large photographs are named after the fictional idea of a glutton's paradise where everything around you is edible. However, in this case each mythical scene is created out of one type of foodstuff. So we have a Garden Of Eden beautifully crafted entirely out of apples that are just starting to rot, and a Tower Of Babel created out of cured meats that are just starting to sweat. Just try not to let it put you off your dinner. *Admission: free. Info: 01970 623232 / www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk CLAIRE MAHONEY*



SUMMER EXHIBITION

Albany Gallery, Cardiff

Fri 10 July-Sat 15 Aug

This summer the Albany Gallery will be hosting their summer exhibition, a large-scale show covering a wide variety of styles, including the work by over 60 artists. This year's exhibition is a 'sell-off-the-wall' event, meaning that once a piece of work has been sold it will immediately be removed and replaced by a brand spanking new piece. This means it will not be a single set showcase of work but instead an ever-evolving exhibition repeatedly refreshed by the introduction of new work, which definitely makes this one to make a few return visits to.

The focal point of the show will most likely be the new work by coveted Welsh landscape painter, Karl Davies. Davies aims to realise a landscape through a composition of focal points in an effort to capture the essence and atmosphere of the depicted space. His vibrant depictions of rural Wales are realised with a skilful use of line and tone to portray the depth and volume of the rolling hills and expansive fields, while colour is utilised to bring about a sense of the erratic Welsh weather that alternates from cold and damp to warm and humid.

Alongside Davies there will also be new work from many other talented local and national artists such as Nick Holly, William Selwyn, Mike Jones, Gwyn Roberts, Rosa Sepple and Jane Correllis.

Admission: free. Info: 029 2048 7158 / www.albanygallery.com (NJ)

IT WOULDN'T BE WORTH IT WITHOUT THE STRUGGLE

Howard Gardens Gallery, Cardiff Sat 4-Fri 31 July

It Wouldn't Be Worth It Without The Struggle is an ambitious project that brings together the work of some of the most talented artists to have studied in Cardiff during the last decade. From a shortlist of over 120 Cardiff School of Art & Design BA, MA and PhD Fine Art graduates nominated by tutors and gallery directors, 18 have been invited to participate by curator Neil Jefferies.

The exhibition will showcase the work of a number of practitioners who have gone on to establish themselves in the competitive world of contemporary art, such as South Wales-based artist Carwyn Williams, London-based portrait painter James Allen, University Of Wales photography tutor Peter Bobby and Bristol-based video artist Matt White. However, alongside the more recognisable names are a selection of exciting up and coming artists such as painter Anne Zeigler, sculptor Sam Aldridge and performer Clare Adams. The exhibition takes place at CSAD's in-house Howard Gardens Gallery, and will act as the initiation of a six-month research project that will investigate how different artists develop their careers post-graduation and the strategies they utilise in order to get by. This will culminate in a symposium on the subject and a second exhibition tracking the development of each artist's work that will take place in January and February at the Old Library in the city centre. *Admission: free. Info: 07507 866583 / gallery@tactilebosch.org (DN)*

Admission: free. Info: 029 2048 7158 / www.makersguildinwales.org.uk (MB)

PLAYING WITH FIRE

Craft In The Bay, Cardiff Bay

Sat 25 July-Sun 30 Aug

As the title of the exhibition suggests, there's going to be some seriously hot stuff on display at Craft In The Bay this summer as the Devon Guild Of Craftsmen in association with the University Of The West Of England and the British Society Of Enamellers draw together a multiplicity of talent, both established and emerging, engaged in producing a variety of highly desirable, luxurious, enameled objects. Enamel has historically been a sumptuous mode of decoration for jewellery and household objects, and with the development of liquid enamels designed for industrial applications the potential uses of this glorious material have been extended into the realms of ambitious fine art projects.

This exhibition promises a show of the widest range of these modern applications, complete with a full exhibition of the sleek, reflective, rich and vibrant properties of this wonderful material, as on display will be a feast of delights from delicate jewellery and table furniture to large scale sculptures and wall mounted pieces.

Exhibitors have been challenged to show experimental works which explore new territories. So if you're a fan of the old favourites – Faberge, Cartier, Tiffany or Lalique – this exhibition is absolutely essential as these practitioners, working in both traditional and contemporary forms, are operating at the cutting edge of their fields. *Admission: free. Info: 029 2048 4611 / www.makersguildinwales.org.uk (MB)*

MARK WALLINGER CURATES: THE RUSSIAN LINESMAN

Glyn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea Sat 18 July-Sun 20 Sept

The eponymous flag-waver, Tofik Bakhramov, is principally remembered on these shores for the dubious award of the Geoff Hurst line-bounce that put England into a 3-2 lead in the 1966 World Cup Final. But he has now been granted a further posthumous dimension of fame, via his designation as surprise jump-off point for this Mark Wallinger-curated exhibition, which arrives in Swansea this month following an acclaimed stint at the South Bank's Hayward Gallery earlier in the year.

Wallinger Turner Prize winner in 2007, has certainly assembled an eclectic collection, with relatively recent pieces – such as the curator's own *Time And Relative Dimensions In Space*, a mirrored, chameleonic version of the TARDIS from *Doctor Who*; and Thomas Demand's *Poll*, which recreates the Florida polling station where the result of the 2000 presidential election was so controversially decided. It mixes in the older works too, such as a two millennium-old marble bust of those ancient deities, Dionysus and Silenus partying down; and *A Dead Soldier*, an anonymously-authored 17th century painting which was, for many years, erroneously attributed to Diego Velasquez. This all creates a show that explores ideas of ambiguity, false perception, indeterminacy, and the arbitrary. However, if that sounds a smidgeon highbrow for you, why not just stand in the gallery and shout 'Offside!' at any passersby? Admit it, you're tempted. *Admission: free. Info: 01792 516900 / glyn.vivian.gallery@swansea.gov.uk (PM)*