

GAZELLI ART HOUSE

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31 March 2011

Down to Earth

Aziz + Cucher Jane McAdam Freud Niyaz Najafov Mark Prethero Saad Qureshi

The Studio, No2 Kingdom St, Paddington Central, London W2
April 1- 20

Gazelli Art House is pleased to announce the second exhibition in its inaugural program for 2011 **Down To Earth**. Following on from the success of our first exhibition 'Fired Up' and continuing the theme of the five classical elements which unite our programme for 2011, **Down to Earth** brings together the work of 5 diverse artists. The art works will explore the terrestrial weight of this most sensual of the elements and its universal association with both life and death.

Down to Earth will be housed in the dramatic setting of a raw former office building in Paddington, set out over 13,000 Sq ft, the location delivers a breathtaking initial impact for visitors to the space and a fertile starting point for our artists.

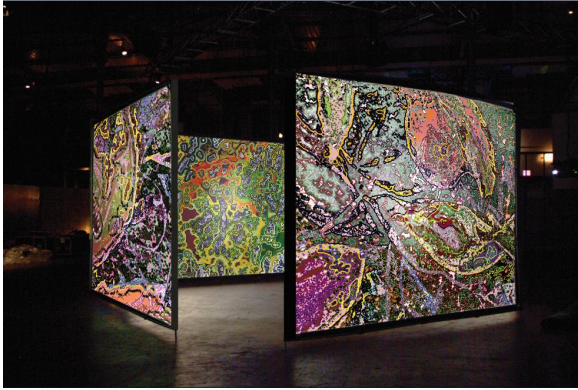
Saad Qureshi's work is a dialogue on communication, culture and displacement and is rooted both in the personal as well as a melancholic response to war zones globally. For 'Down To Earth' Saad has produced a monumental 9m minaret. Lying prone along the central exhibition space, 'Quicken' will be an unsettling counterpoint to removed and sanitized images of war, whilst animating the core of the piece is a poignant reminder of the intimate and humane – the soft sound of a human heartbeat.

Jane McAdam Freud uses the traditional mediums of clay, stone and bronze in works which are erotic and psychologically charged. Her sculpture confronts us with the elemental concerns of what it is to be alive as sexual and intellectual beings and is a materialization of our notion of the struggle between life and death; works frequently appear to descend bellow ground to a heavy underworld. Playing with the literal and poetic interpretations of 'Down to Earth', Jane's work is a comment on what art is and its significance in the 21st Century – Dead or Alive.

Aziz and Cucher will exhibit recent works including a four channel video installation 'Synaptic Bliss: Villette' and unique prints from their sequence 'Scenapsee'. In these seemingly classical landscape still-images and videos diverse forms are superimposed, become intertwined and slowly emerge from an intensively coloured flurry. Their work has been marked by a distinctive concern regarding technology and its impact on consciousness and the human body, in addition to being an ongoing conversation between the painterly and the photographic.



1+1
Jane McAdam Freud
stoneware grog, 2010



'Synaptic Bliss: Villette',
Aziz + Cucher,
4 channel video installation, 2004



*Unfortunately it was
Paradise (detail),
Saad Qureshi, 2010*

Mark Prethero's suite of large-scale photographic works for 'Down to Earth' represent a visionary response to the natural landscape around him. Prethero's work explores the ability of digital photography to represent the real whilst employing painterly techniques to distort and create an imagined and constructed reality. We are shown glimpses and visions of worlds that are both outside our every day existence yet also resonate with a romantic sense of the familiar and the remembered

Niyaz Najafov's sensual oil paintings follow in the tradition of the dark romanticism of artists such as Delacroix with rich, earthy canvases which glow with humanity and an unflinching sense of the personal. Encountering his work, one is struck by the force of nature and the artist's vital experience of making and living through art with the every day made vivid and iconic.

Notes to Editors

1. Locations of each exhibition available from c.bailey@gazelliarthouse.com
2. Gazelli Art House is a commercial contemporary art organisation dedicated to providing a new setting for the understanding and creation of art. It was founded in 2010 by Mila Askarova.
3. Mila Askarova Biography
Mila Askarova was born and raised in Azerbaijan and educated in Turkey. She studied at the LSE, Central St Martins and Christies, and has made exhibitions in Baku and Istanbul as well as working as a private dealer in the commercial sector in London. In 2011 she will coordinate the Azerbaijan Pavilion at the 54th Venice Biennale.
4. Catalogues, designed by Ted Lovett, with essays by curators and writers including Emilie Trice will accompany each exhibition and will form one publication at the close of the project.
5. The Down To Earth Sculpture Seminar, Chaired by Richard Wentworth will take place on 15 April 6.30 – 8pm

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For further information and images please contact Celia Bailey on 020 34052 517 or c.bailey@gazelliarthouse.com