

Utopia Ltd.

12th February – 12th March 2011 / Wexford Arts Centre

Group exhibition curated by David Mabb and Mary Ruth Walsh

Artists: Blaise Drummond, Brendan Earley, Pil & Galia Kollektiv, David Mabb, Lizi Sánchez, Mary Ruth Walsh

Opening & gallery talk with exhibiting artists: Friday 11th February at 6pm

Wexford Arts Centre is delighted to host a group exhibition entitled *Utopia Ltd* from Saturday 12th February to Saturday 12th March 2011. *Utopia Ltd.* explores the relationship between utopian ideas and commodification, bringing together artwork by Blaise Drummond, Brendan Earley, Pil and Galia Kollektiv, David Mabb, Lizi Sanchez and Mary-Ruth Walsh. The seven artists' work opens up a debate on the utopian within painting, sculpture, architecture, design and video.

The works in *Utopia Ltd.* represent modernist architecture and design in its various mutations within a spectacularised, commodified 20th century consumer society. In these works, the utopian dream seems to burst through again and again, despite rather than because of the permutations of commodity culture. By picturing the past, present and possible future the works destabilize fixed linear time. By rescuing, reclaiming and re-picturing, *Utopia Ltd.* suggests that utopian ideas persist in contemporary art, making a provocative demand on the viewer's capacity to produce utopian dreams of their own.

The exhibition's title *Utopia Ltd.* is a satirical echo of an operetta by Gilbert and Sullivan, *Utopia (Limited) or, The Flowers of Progress* (1893), in which a utopian colony is turned into a joint stock company. The exhibition was curated by Mary Ruth Walsh and David Mabb.

Pil & Galia Kollektiv's video, *The Future Trilogy*, marries flat-pack IKEA modernism and Sunday DIY rituals to create a modernism that become the basis for religious cults, and can be seen in Wexford Arts Centre's theatre at the following times:

Saturday 12th February, 3-4pm
Thursday 17th February, 1-2pm
Friday 18th February, 1-2pm
Thursday 3rd March, 1-2pm
Friday 4th March, 1-2pm
Saturday 5th March, 3-4pm
Thursday 10th March, 1-2pm
Friday 11th March, 1-2pm

For further information on the artists or exhibition, or to request images please contact Catherine Bowe, Visual Arts Manager, Wexford Arts Centre on +353 (0)53 91 23764 or email catherine@wexfordartscentre.ie. For information on each of the artists please log on to www.wexfordartscentre.ie.

Wexford Art Centre's galleries are open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-5.30pm and admission is free. School tours and artist led workshops can be arranged upon request. The workshops focus on the work of exhibiting artists using observation, discussion and a variety of practical and artistic techniques.

