The Pointillist Sculpture Park

A Solo exhibition in Gallery Arte Giani in Frankfurt Germany May /July 2012. The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue with an essay by Dr Francis Mckee

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A solo exhibition of a body of paintings in Galleri Arte Giani, in Frankfurt.

«The Sun Is Closing Its Eye»
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This solo exhibition offered a chance to concentrate on, and make an in depth study of issues that are on going within my practice as a painter: detail and colour as a means of describing objects/spaces.

This exhibition reflects a sympathy and admiration for the French Post Impressionist painter Georges Seurat and his painstaking work that became termed «Pointillism». There is an oddity about this «ism», which led nowhere but remains an appendix to impressionism. Although in no way classed as «Outsider art» it shares many characteristics with art that is classified as such.

I have a long standing interest in, and enquiry into so called «outsider art». I first visited the Prinzhorn collection, in Heidelberg in 2009, after receiving an «Artist award» from Creative Scotland. During preparation for this exhibition I re-visited, and spent time in the archives of this collection, which houses one of the worlds largest collection of works by «psychologically experienced» artists and dated from 1909 and is still ongoing. There are aspects of many of the works within this tradition, and particular works in this collection, such as intensely rendered detail, colour luminosity and incorporation of both decorative and narrative elements that are relevant for the way I work myself.

The title «The Pointillist Sculpture Park» is a physically impossible proposition, which aims to both conjure certain mental images as well as underpin the paintings that physically contain this proposition.
Georges Seurat. Study for «A Sunday At La Grande Jatte» 1884.
Georges Seurat. Detail from «Parade de Cirque» 1889.
Adolph Wollfi (1864 -1930). Wollfi was a so called «outsider artist» his work can be found amongst other places The Prinzhorn collection. As with this one, many of his works incorporate musical notations. There is an intensity of labour and of intention in these works that I have been very interested in exploring with my own work.
Louise Hopkins. Untitled (931) 2007. Hopkins is a college at in the Painting and Printmaking Department at Te Glasgow School Of Art, whose work I have a longstanding interest and empathy with, discussions with Hopkins is a regular occurrence during our work at GSA, and is are an implied influence also in this particular project.
METHODOLOGY

For this exhibition I produced a large body of paintings both oil and watercolour continuing long standing explorations within my practice of the physical and psychological intensity achieved in a painting using the formal properties of detail, pattern, mass, and colour. I wanted to explore the possibility of using these qualities and techniques to describe figures, and space. Whilst attempting to describe human and animal figures I wanted to withhold narrative, so I chose to use generic, mostly antique Egyptian, Greek and Roman sculptures as running motifs in this body of works. They are there mainly to serve as three dimensional forms, figures – and as what can be easily recognised as sculpture.
Hanneline Visnes. «Pink Mist» 2009. Oil on board
Hanneline Visnes « Public Parks and Recreational Spaces» 2012 Oil on board.
Hanneline Visnes. «Red Weed» 2011. Watercolour on paper
Gallery Arte Giani is a private gallery in Frankfurt Germany, it is run by Dr Claudia Giani, an art historian with affiliations to many collections and museums in Germany and the rest of Europe. As a private collector of «Outsider art» Dr Giani has a strong connection to the Prinzhorn collection, and it was she who introduced it to me. The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue with an essay by Dr Francis Mckee.

As part of my research in the Prinzhorn collection I was able to introduce the museums director Dr Thomas Røske to the School of fine art and help organize his visit in 2010 to give a guest lecture on the collection, followed by a seminar that he and I conducted on related topics.
Hanneline Visnes «House» 2012 Oil on board
Acknowledgements

The research for this exhibition was made possible by an «Artist Award» given to me by Creative Scotland in 2009/10 – The award is for the sum of £15 000 – and was the largest award given to individual artists by Creative Scotland. It is no longer given.