

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 23th August 2011

Kate McCarthy

Solo Exhibition:

The Fellows and The Bloodies

17th September – 8th October 2011

Opening Night: Saturday 17th September

6-8 pm 19 Karen Contemporary Art Space



Grape Ape – 2011

*Acrylic, enamel, aerosol and oil on canvas
100 x 100cm*

'The Fellows and The Bloodies' is Kate McCarthy's fourth solo show full of quirky and unusual characters crafted in shapes and pattern that stem from her flawless talent to capture the imagery of youth.

Kate says the title 'The Fellows and The Bloodies' is a fragment from her childhood.

"When I was little we loved our stuffed toys and called them 'The Fellows' - it was such a friendly, rounded term. And we called anything resembling a real human form, specifically dolls 'The Bloodies'- it was the ultimate worst word we could think of. They would have battles and The Fellows always won," she says.

Kate's work is signature in the way she uses shape, colour and pattern to create works of the purest and raw form. The true beauty of her art is the way it can transport the viewer back to an age of innocence, youth and exploration.

"I use repetitive pattern and references to shapes that trigger emotion in the audience only by default - what connects all of us comes from TV shows, books and characters from infancy and childhood, and I believe by incorporating these suggestive elements into my work I can transport the viewer back to childhood," she says.

In this series of works by Kate the viewer is exposed to a more developed and refined example of her talent. She says now that her two boys, aged 5 and 2, are more grown up this allows her subject matter to also mature.

"I'm able to work in a manner more suited to my actual artistic thoughts on canvas. Previously my work had to be very simple, quick and pleasant to look at (so as not to freak them out). As they get older they are more autonomous, it allows me to spend more quality time on the canvas," Kate says.

Working from Binalong Bay in Tasmania with her young family Kate has always worked loosely in art and design. In 2004 she opened McCarthyism Contemporary Artspace in Tasmania which represented sound artist Ian Kitney, film maker Stefan Popescu and performance artist Casionova. Since the birth of Kate's second son, she has focussed on producing her own art; 2011 saw her overseas debut in an Italian group show, a feature in The Age Sunday Magazine and her participation in the Sydney Fringe Festival.

So join us and the artist to open her solo show 'The Fellows and The Bloodies' here at 19 KAREN. Also hear Kate and other exhibitors Mica Still and Beck Wheeler talk about their practise and experiences at an Artist Talk on Sunday 18th September from 10-12pm; an event not to be missed for artists, students and collectors. Please RSVP by email or phone.

ENDS

CONTACT: For media enquiries, artwork images or artist interviews please contact Jade Stroud-watts on 0431053822 or email jade@19karen.com.au