

Richard Moon



Solo Show

Exhibition: 9th June - 12th July '06

Private View: 8th June '06

The Wyer Gallery is delighted to announce RA graduate and Celeste Art Prize finalist Richard Moon's debut solo exhibition, which opens with a private view on the 8th June 2006.

Moon's work sets out to explore a fascination with the uncanny or a negative aesthetic that inspires discomfort and even dread in the viewer. His arresting portraits of composite people are borne by combining with his own invention long discarded images of folk from early Victorian photographs and old magazine cuttings. As such, the characters portrayed seem to belong eerily to some undefined or illusory era: dislocated beings that seem to hover tantalisingly in the spaces between what the viewer knows to be real and *unreal*. By reappropriating, reassembling and reinvesting with value what are long discarded images, Moon hints at new and multiple narrative possibilities, untold stories and unknown pasts. And it's precisely this, what we *don't* know about the subjects of Moon's portraits that becomes disturbing.

Whilst the chunky, 1940's knitwear of *The Sitter (pictured)*, for instance, might root him in a safe or homely, domesticated zone, the overall product is far from reassuring and his blank mechanical stare gives him an android like quality that causes doubts as to whether this apparently animate being is even alive. Sitting on his hands, as might a reprimanded schoolboy, the tightly wound torsion of his body suggests he might spring into action at any moment. But Moon suspends him in a frozen moment of pre-action which then depends on the viewer's own sensitivity to the macabre to complete the reading. It's only when informed that the face of this subject is taken from a Victorian photograph of a grieving father, that we can see how Moon's paintings might become a forum for the expression of socio-cultural fears.

In the past Richard Moon has worked with Sol LeWitt on his public mural projects. Since graduating, he has been involved in a number of group projects and his work has been exhibited at the Armoury fair in New York. This year he and has been chosen as a finalist for the Celeste Art Prize, run by the Curatorial Programme at Goldsmiths College, London (winner announced 28th May) and shortlisted for the John Moores prize for painting. His paintings are in several large collections, including that of Charles Saatchi.

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Notes to Editors

1 Images and further information are available at www.thewyergallery.co.uk or on request.

2 The Wyer Gallery is located at 191 St John's Hill, Battersea, London, SW11 1TH.

3 Opening hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 6pm; Thursdays until 8pm and Saturday 10am to 5pm, or other times by appointment.