

Press Release. New Art Centre.

Georgie Hopton - The Three Cornered Hat

Roche Court. 23 Feb - 5 May 2008



Georgie Hopton's exhibition is in the Artists' House at Roche Court, designed by Stephen Marshall, 2001, in order to show domestic scale art.

Known for her paintings and sculpture influenced by Morandi and Picasso, Hopton's inspiration for this new series of works comes solely from flowers, some of which she has grown herself. Focusing on a few particular genus, she has photographed, painted and sculpted each image, forming groups specifically for this exhibition. Her photographs of flowers, often presented in retro style vases, are deployed in strange

colour combinations and appear to be depicted through some sort of filter that detaches the objects from reality. They are more painterly than photographic. Hopton's oval canvases present flowers as though spied through a window of nostalgia. Detailed, geometric and tonally limited, they have an air of loss and harking after the past. Feeling at once like embroideries or stained glass, the subjects themselves have an unmistakable sculptural quality.

The sculptures, made in clay and then cast, have a distinctly cubist feel; moving from the 3-dimensional to the 2-dimensional all at once. For Hopton, it is vital that each discipline talks about the rest and it is no accident that she moves within the 3 and does not settle on one. For her, the interesting thing is how the act of photography can produce, not a photograph, but a picture and how making a sculpture can be like painting in the air. Disturbingly, these 'monuments' to the natural world oscillate between a sort of hyperreality, whilst simultaneously eerily conjuring death.

"I've always oscillated between 3D and 2D: I graduated from college with sculptures when I'd taken a painting degree - the paintings literally moved from the walls to the floor, almost unconsciously. It felt like a very natural thing to do".
Georgie Hopton, in conversation with Louisa Buck, *Laughed - I Could Have Cried*, Milton Keynes Gallery 2003.

Georgie Hopton graduated from St Martins School of Art in 1989. Solo exhibitions have included *Laughed - I Could Have Cried* at Milton Keynes Gallery, which travelled to Firstsite, Colchester, 2003. Hopton was nominated for the Maxmara Art Prize for Women in 2007 and lives and works in London and upstate New York.