

POPPY SEBIRE

BOO RITSON

BACK-ROADS JOURNEYS

The Gas Station

Private View: Saturday 17th October, 10am – 1pm

Exhibition Continues: 13 October – 21 November 2009

36 North Audley Street, London W1K 6ZJ, Tuesday – Sunday 10am – 6pm

Scenes of small-town America come to life in Back-Roads Journeys, an exhibition across two venues of new work by British artist Boo Ritson at Alan Cristea Gallery and Poppy Sebire from 13 October.

Back-Roads Journeys begins in 'The Diner', an installation at Alan Cristea Gallery, where visitors are introduced to the Diner Waitress, unhappy in her job, waiting on the trucker's table; he has dropped in for a quick bite. Their portraits are set alongside still lifes of fast food, a new series of screenprints on plexiglass of classic American diner food and a triptych interior scene made familiar through American road movies. The story moves to 'The Gas Station' at Poppy Sebire's gallery where we see the Diner Waitress who, having quit her job for a new life in the South, is hitching a lift with her friend, the trucker. Here, the narrative evolves with the addition of new characters associated with life on an American highway.

Ritson depicts characters and still lifes drawn from her own imagined narratives merged with borrowed Americana. For each piece she paints her subject in a thick emulsion and then has the scene photographed whilst the paint is still wet. The resulting image sits somewhere between painting, sculpture, performance and photography. Ritson has always located her work in an American cultural context and has been fascinated by the process and by history of painting. In these new works at Alan Cristea Gallery and Poppy Sebire, she introduces her first 'unfinished' subjects, each one defined as much by what is absent as what the viewer sees.

Boo Ritson (b.1969) was recently commissioned to paint the band, The Maccabees, for their new album cover. A new Land Securities public commission will be installed in the foyer of Portland House, Victoria, in October. A retrospective museum show alongside Idris Khan and Ori Gersht, travelled from the Centro Andaluz de Fotografía, Almería, to the Convento de Santa Inés, Seville, in 2008 – 09.

Boo Ritson has also recently donated works to the Harefield Benefit Auction, Shelter's House of Cards campaign and The Blank Canvas Project for Amnesty International and The Big Issue. Ritson has work in international public collections around the world including Tishman Speyer Art Collection, New York, Titze Collection, Paris, Saatchi Collection, London, The Chadha Art Collection, The Netherlands, The Zabudowicz Collection, London, and Jay Jopling's Collection, London.

Notes to Editors

This is the launch exhibition of an exciting new programme of exhibitions by Poppy Sebire gallery artists. Without fixed premises, the gallery takes on a new London space for each exhibition. Updates about new locations and exhibitions of our nomadic 'space' are posted regularly on the gallery website.

P O P P Y S E B I R E is open 10am-6pm, Tues-Sun Or by appointment.
36 North Audley Street, London W1K 6ZJ M. 07792 273072 gallery@poppysebire.com www.poppysebire.com

