

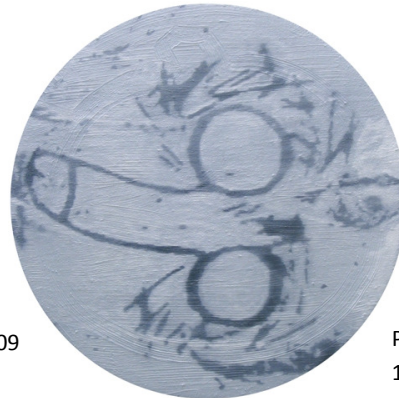
Andrew Griffiths – Finding Tongues in Trees

15 May - 25 June 2009

Private View 14 May, 6-9pm



The Devil And The Sinner, 2009
17 x 12 in, oil on linen



Phallus, 2009
15 in dia, oil on linen

The KESTER+BLES gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new paintings by Andrew Griffiths.

Griffiths' recent paintings present a series of tightly-cropped images of carvings on trees (arborglyphs). Primitive and crude, these inscriptions have diverse origins, both historically and geographically. They include examples produced by Basque shepherds in the American West and by courting couples in the English Home Counties.

For the viewer, these carvings are imagined as raw, private statements taken from a fixed moment in time, prey to erasure by growth and decay, 'like the weathered tattoos on an aging barfly', as Griffiths puts it. They are compelling as gestures of ethno-historical rather than aesthetic value. Instead of retaining the surface texture of the carvings, Griffiths' aim is to 'erase and expose as blended illusion, negating evidence of a living organism into painterly appropriation'.

Andrew Griffiths (1972) studied at Loughborough College of Art and Design and the Royal College of Art London. Exhibitions include Rocca Pistola Collection at New Inn Gallery, Muster Station at Rockwell, John Moores 24, ArtSway 07 and Jerwood Contemporary Painters 2008. He has been awarded the Amlin Interim Show Award (RCA) in 2003 and the Painters-Stainers Award in 2003 and 2004. He was artist-in-residence at Loughborough University in 2005 and 2006.

KESTER+BLES is a contemporary art gallery that opened in Notting Hill, London, in September 2008. The gallery was founded by Lieke Kester and Eelke Jan Bles, who are both Dutch. KESTER+BLES shows work by emerging artists from Northern Europe, particularly those based in the UK and the Netherlands.

For further information and high resolution images, please contact Lieke Kester on:

lieke@kesterbles.com or +44 (0)20 7229 0949.

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Opening hours: Mon to Fri from 10.30 to 6 and Sat from 12 to 5 during exhibitions, or by appointment