

Press Release

If you'll believe in me, I'll believe in you

21st June – 20th July 2008

The GRV Studio 2, 37 Guthrie Street, Edinburgh

Thurs-Sun 12pm-7pm. Admission free

Preview and book launch: Friday 20th June 2008, 7pm; performance by Shelly Nadashi, 8pm Panel discussion with artists: Sunday 22nd June 2008, 2pm Artist talk with Katinka Simonse (a.k.a. TINKEBELL) and closing event: Sunday 20th July 2008, 5pm.

Curated by MA in Contemporary Art Theory students in the Centre for Visual & Cultural Studies at Edinburgh College of Art, *If you'll believe in me, I'll believe in you* brings together the work of Erica Eyres (Scotland); Sigga Björg Sigurðardóttir (Iceland); Katinka Simonse (a.k.a. TINKEBELL) (The Netherlands); and Lorraine Sue-Fern Yeung (England). Shelly Nadashi (Israel) will open the exhibition with a live performance.

Through the projection of human-like qualities onto animals, imaginary creatures and inanimate objects, the artworks in this exhibition invoke feelings of repulsion and attraction, innocence and the macabre. The human tendency to anthropomorphise can be found in diverse cultural forms, from Disney films to Furry fandom, and from the Frankenstein Syndrome to online avatars. It is a compelling and rich concept through which artists can address a broad range of subjects, including our complicated relationship with animals in the context of industry and mass culture, as well as our conflicting responses to the grotesque yet sympathetic.

Using sub-human, animal-human, and non-human characters, the artists create absurd, enigmatic, and sometimes disturbing narratives. What it means to be human becomes malleable and unstable, rendering any solid definition of humanity a matter of faith. But, if you'll believe in me, I'll believe in you.

Venue: The GRV Studio 2, 37 Guthrie Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1JG, Tel: 0131 220 2987

Notes to editors

1. Artists: Erica Eyres <http://www.ericayres.com>; Sigga Björg Sigurðardóttir <http://www.galerieadler.com>; Katinka Simonse (a.k.a. TINKEBELL) <http://www.tinkebell.com>; Lorraine Sue-Fern Yeung <http://www.lorraineyeung.com>; and Shelly Nadashi.

2. A catalogue accompanies the show and consists of texts written by the curators and other invited writers. Book launch on opening night: 20th June 2008, 7pm.

3. Artists Talks and performance: Shelly Nadashi will perform at 8pm on the opening night, 20th June 2008. A panel discussion will take place on Sunday 22nd June 2008 at 2pm with artists Erica Eyres, Sigga Björg Sigurðardóttir and Lorraine Sue-Fern Yeung. A second artist talk with artist Katinka Simonse and Rose Ruane (artist and

catalogue writer) will take place on Sunday 20th July 2008 at 5pm and will be followed by drinks and snacks as a closing event for the exhibition.

4. Curated by MA Contemporary Art Theory students: Angela Beck (Canada); Kristín Dagmar Jóhannesdóttir (Iceland); Elena Damiano (Italy); Talitha Kotze (South Africa); Undine Lang (Switzerland); Martine Pugh (Scotland); Elnara Taidre (Estonia); Galya Umansky (Israel).

5. Established in 2001, the postgraduate MA programme in Contemporary Art Theory at Edinburgh College of Art remains unique in Scotland. It brings together ideas and materials from a wide range of disciplines to investigate contemporary visual practices, cultural theory and organisational praxis. www.eca.ac.uk

6. The GRV is an urban sanctuary for multi-media arts, creative culture and music in Edinburgh's city centre. The GRV functions as a melting pot of creative practice, performance and exhibition. Spread over four floors, the newly renovated site is fast becoming the focal point for contemporary artistic entertainment in the city. See <http://thegrv.com>

Listing details:

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Press calls are welcome by appointment.

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