

Scott White Contemporary Art presents:

When I was young I would sit in the bath and ideas would come to me, now I am old I sit in the bath

by James Rielly

Opening Reception Saturday, January 12th

Exhibition Summary

Scott White Contemporary Art is pleased to present *“When I was young I would sit in the bath and ideas would come to me, now I am old I sit in the bath,”* a solo exhibition of new works by Welsh artist James Rielly. Rielly falls into a prominent group of postmodernist artists heavily influenced by Dada and Surrealism, dubbed the “Young British Artists,” (a group that includes Damien Hirst and Chris Ofili) who first appeared on the art scene in the 1980’s. Rielly is known for his absurd portraits of unknown people without names or histories. The pale, muted palette of his work stands at odds with his dark, often-morbid themes of youth, aging, alienation and abnormality. Rielly’s grotesque subjects are playfully sinister, suggesting a family portrait gone awry. These sideshow freak-type characters serve as a compassionate testimony for the peculiar.

“When I was young I would sit in the bath and ideas would come to me, now I am old I sit in the bath” is a collection of both large and small-scale acrylic on canvas paintings and an animated video installation. The exhibition will be available for viewing at the La Jolla, California gallery beginning Saturday, January 12th through Saturday, February 23rd, 2013. A reception for the artist will be held in the gallery on Saturday, January 12th from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

About the Artist

James Rielly received his art education at the Cheltenham College of Arts and later at the Belfast College of Art. Rielly is a member of a prominent, yet controversial group of postmodernist artists that dominated the British art scene in the late 1980’s - the Young British Artists, or YBA’s. His works were among those featured in the infamous “Sensation” exhibition at the Royal Academy in 1997. He is the 1995 winner of the John Moores Contemporary Painting Prize, the United Kingdom’s best-known and most prestigious painting competition. Rielly works and resides in France where he is also the professor of painting at the distinguished École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris, France.

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