

SEX BOMBS BLISS &

DAMIAN FENNELL & JONAH CACIOPPE
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19 – 23 JUNE 2007

PRIVATE VIEW TUE 19 JUNE 6.30-8.30PM

TUES TO SAT 11AM–6PM OR BY APPOINTMENT

British sculptor Damian Fennell and Australian painter Jonah Cacioppe are pleased to present their second exhibition of work together at London's Menier Chocolate Factory Gallery this June. Working together since 2001 and sharing a studio for a number of years Cacioppe and Fennell have produced a body of work addressing the enduring themes of beauty, death and the sublime.

Cacioppe's series of 5 large semi-abstract oil paintings of Baghdad night bombings, the 'Shock and Awe' campaign of 2003, are taken from found reportage photography. Colour explodes on the canvas and conveys the sublime through overwhelming death and destruction. The paintings neither glorify nor abhor the landscape of war but rather aim to transcend its horror to reveal beauty. 4 large canvases from Cacioppe's earlier *I am the Sun and the Moon* series are also concerned with the sublime but convey it in more serene, meditative and minimal forms.

A selection of female nude sculptures from Fennell's *Woman* series explores sexual politics and a contrasting belief in the transcendent nature of the Self. The different surface treatments and materials in these sculptures recognize various persecutions of women from both pre- and post-feminist eras. Their core form reflects women's stoic resolution and power through the adversity of discrimination, while celebrating their essential presence. Also included in the exhibition is *States of Being*, a series of 5 life-size male nudes embodying the different types of government from Plato's *Republic* and their reflection in the varying states of the individual. Often underlying Fennell's work is a love of the experience of pure existence, seemingly free from all identifications and concerns.

Perth born Cacioppe lives and works in London. He has studied and exhibited extensively in both the UK and Australia including Trevor Victor Harvey and Metro 5. Also based in London, Fennell's UK exhibitions have seen his work enter collections in Europe, Africa, Australia and the USA.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Opening times: 11am – 6pm
Dates: 19 – 23 June 2007
Admission: Free
Venue: Menier Chocolate Factory,
51 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1RU
Transport: London Bridge tube or Southwark tube.
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