# die bildermacher

ani-mates™



## eamon o'kane

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ani-mates™



neuffer, pirmasens, germany 1 march - 18 may 2002

011 podium, tilburg, holland 18 march - 15 april 2002

galerie schuster, frankfurt, germany 12 june - 20 july 2002

galerie schuster & scheuermann, berlin, germany 12 october - 20 november 2002



### Things are never expected to be real

Eamon O'Kane in conversation with Anja Musiat

*AM* - Two of the main themes of your artistic practice are the panorama and the grand tour. Why are you so attracted to the large scale of time and space?

E O'K - I think I subconsciously connected with an idea of scale the summer before going to art college, when I worked on a building site. I was taken with the physical human scale and the ambition of building a house or a space, and having to paint that space, slate the roofs and plaster the walls. I felt I could achieve a similar sense of scale in my artwork. In art college I became very interested, like most art students probably, in Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh's work. I still haven't fully come to terms with the way these two artists' bodies of work have influenced my way of thinking. With Monet, I became interested in the idea of collapsing time and the way he looked at Rouen Cathedral or the haystacks over a period of time and I tried to work in that way as well, so it was about time and also a sense of travel through time. This lead to an interest in another type of collapse in time - that of a moment, which is where the panorama comes from. I think Monet's interest in the panorama was grounded in the attempt to capture a moment within an impression, and that's why his panoramic works appealed so much to me. With van Gogh, I was interested in his use of objects as metaphors for the human condition. His chair and his rooms made me want to construct spaces in which one can immerse oneself, both mentally and physically. I wanted to make paintings which you could stand in front of and feel a relationship with in terms of physical scale. So if there was a chair in a painting I wanted it to be the right size in relation to the viewer's body as in 'Budapest on the brink of the West'. Further investigation into the panorama and finding out the history of the panorama movement, as well as visiting some of them and looking at all the documentation of existing and destroyed panoramas only increased my involvement with scale. In the last few years the work of artists such as Jeff Wall, Doug Aitken and Stan Douglas has extended my interest in immersive spaces and I have worked with connections between the panorama and virtual reality, as in 'Panorama Interface'.



Even in your smallest, snapshot-size paintings, one gets a sense of great scale – not just because of the number of individual works, but also because of the vast landscapes they convey. How did the interest in immersive spaces lead to your series of small paintings?

With the small paintings I was interested in the relationship between the touristic snapshot photograph and memory. Again the snapshot photograph represents a moment in time - taken in the past, remembered in the present as well as in future and even in a constructed time. The paintings represent both the anticipation and the aftermath of a journey and also the fictional notions I became interested in from Kafka's Amerika which was written completely from secondary source material. They are connected to the panorama, because they are all sections, or brief moments, of larger panoramic landscapes or cityscapes. They are displayed in a grid which refers to an aerial view of a city or a space and also to a kind of modular structure, where placing things on a grid becomes a way of categorising or archiving information which again connects to the grid-like structures that inhabit virtual spaces. The grid also refers to the pictorial grid one would construct to create a traditional painting. The paintings play on this macro/micro, in-and-out-of-focus sensation, because from a distance they may look like photographs but when you get up close they look like paintings with a very strong relation to the photograph. Are they true depictions of the initial photograph, or have they been manipulated, have things been taken out or put in?

## You are not an easily categorised artist – why do you spread across so many media?

During my time at art college in Dublin I developed a habit of using a wide range of media to document and gather source materials, taking photographs and using the video camera to make sketches in a very intuitive way. It wasn't done with a precise agenda such as deciding that this medium was good for this subject, and I still continue to use this intuition. I think you have to with anything creative – your intuition is your only guiding light so to say. When I was studying in Belfast I began to look at how a certain idea can be sketched out in order





to decide what medium to use – sometimes the work starts with the concept and other times the idea starts to build and then the concept becomes very much part of it, dictating the direction of where the work is going to end up. My using so many different media can seem haphazard. The way I look at it, all the bodies of work can almost be seen as different chapters in a book, but the chapters are being written simultaneously, some of them get held and left for a while, then I come back and rewrite them. The chapters can also be read between the lines, or one can jump between the lines in a manner similar to the strategy one could apply to the stream-of-consciousness writing in Joyce's *Ulysses* or *Finnegan's Wake*. I have developed several bodies of work over the last number of years that have for me a series of inter-connectedreference points that I can feed off creatively. These include my series of large scale panoramic paintings, or drawings with paint as they have become, the series of large and small photographic works, my video works and, more recently, my small scale paintings all of which are inter-connected.

#### Tell me more about how some of your ideas develop into video work.

The first videos that I made were more like sketches, or abstract ideas developed through playing with the camera or with situations. When I was staying in America, the videos became more process-referential. 'SOAP' for example was a reaction against the various soap-operas that are shown on daytime tv in the US and in Europe. The concept directly relates to the medium in that it's about television being shown as a video on a television. When the concept becomes inextricably linked to the medium, that's when I choose to use video. With 'Bunker', which is based on footage found on the internet, I wanted to highlight how video and new computer technology can be used to deceive people into thinking they are experiencing or seeing something that they are not. In other videos I have used text that questions the nature of the medium and the mode of representation – in 'STAY' it's about travel and the future of new technology and in 'Panaroma Interface', the text directly refers to the panoramic video footage that is being shown in another part of the installation.





#### You have also incorporated text into other media.

As in the video pieces, the text on objects is self-referential. In 'Bedside Reading' I painted a list of books I have previously read onto a bedside table, and in 'Home Boy' I transcribed lists of contents I could remember from my parents' house onto a kitchen table, the centre of the household. Alongside these are the text paintings which can tend to be quite sculptural at times. They developed from a project of mine which involved transcribing texts from old deeds onto mattresses and window blinds. This came out of a conceptual idea of wanting to use the type of objects included in the deeds as the support for the text itself. It was very connected to ideas around ancestral history and particularly the history of my parents' house in Donegal. I use text because it works in a completely different way from visual imagery - people somehow feel compelled to read text that's on the actual painting, sculpture, photograph or video. I also feel a close affinity towards the structural or compositional possibilities of text. More recently I have been taking photographs of constructed signs with quotes that refer to the sign itself. We are surrounded by signs everywhere, telling us where to go and what to do. I wanted to construct images that were a momentary public performative gesture by putting up the signs and taking a photograph of them. The photographs look as if they have been manipulated on the computer when actually they haven't. I like that deception. Perhaps it makes people begin to question what's going on in the image much more.

You work often leaves the viewer with more questions than answers. This is particularly the case when you let layers of so-called reality intertwine with fiction, mixing found footage with your own imagery in your slide or video projections or in the AKA paintings for example. What is this desire for ambiguity derived from?

The ambiguity is partially due to a need to leave things open and also to give several points of entry. I don't like to be too prescriptive about how a viewer approaches my work. The way I view art work there is no hard line between what is fiction and what is reality. I see the production of artwork as a construction of a fiction, both in the actual process of making the work and in living a





certain way of life. There is a need to not close things off, to not make things understandable in a conventional sense. I don't want to predetermine what way a viewer is going to digest a given piece of work and that's why I try to allow for multiple entry-points as well as multiple exit-points. I am interested in creating my own fictional space or spaces where the production of images is governed by a desire to layer realities. The way the late Martin Kippenberger approached art making has had quite an impact on how I view my own practice. When questioned about his seminal work "The Happy End of Franz Kafka's 'Amerika'", he was always very elusive about whether he had read the book or not. Indeed he said that he never finished reading the book but that a friend told him about the ending, and yet he was prepared to invest a huge amount of energy into constructing his own fictional spaces out of the spaces created by Kafka. The final installation is incredibly Kafkaesque and yet aesthetically very much removed from anything you would associate with Kafka.

Your most recent work revolves around the idea of you, the artist, relinquishing the production of your work to a group of quirky art assistants, the ani-mates. What lies behind that move?

It again links to the idea of fictional spaces. One of the things that confuses people a lot about my work is the various modes within which I work, the different media I employ whilst still maintaining some form of continuity. It may seem as if I am searching for my style, but I have grown accustomed to using a variety of media and letting the concept dictate the medium. The ani-mates came out of a frustration with the way society perceives the art-making process and there is a relief in letting go of all or part of the production of my work as it would perhaps refocus attention on the art-objects themselves, away from the artist. It's not as cut-and-dry as saying that these figures make my work and I tell them what to do or don't tell them what to do - I want it to be ambiguous and to reserve the right to change the working relationship later on. I believe in the existence of my art assistants, even though I am a little afraid of them. I think other people should believe in them too.





### Ani-mates: the Artist and his Other.

Who are these "ani-mates"? Are we being duped if we pursue this question too rigorously? Will the questioning erase the playfulness of the gesture? At the risk of taking the artist's bait and then getting hooked on a mis-interpretation of his sense of humor I would like to take up a few questions raised by the use of the "ani-mates". But hopefully they will not distract from the tone of levity which informs the games which Eamon O'Kane invites us to play.

At first glance these bold and simple figurines appear to be best understood as echoes of childhood. Like childhood toys the "ani-mates" "fix" and hold in place projections of the psyche, but also retain a mutability which allows them to be continuously "re-invented" and "re-imagined". At least that is until the end of that period we call "childhood", at which time this quality of mutability is forever lost.

We cannot resist suggesting that, despite their fresh colors and simple modelling, they remind us that childhood dolls can be imbued with the vengeance and the power of a fetish. They inhabit the domain of magical thinking and allow us free reign to enjoy fantasies independent of reality. If they remind us of the trolls and sprites of folk legend and lore (so eagerly re-worked in the commercial fantasies of Disney and Pixar) it is through this connection to "invisible" presences.

But while Eamon O'Kane's "ani-mates" may remind us of household gods, and guardian spirits, they do seem to be animated by the passion of an idol or a fetish. Perhaps at some point they may have to be broken and withdrawn from the rituals of worship, but in their current form they are presented as patient, monk-like attendants. We are being asked by O'Kane to consider them as necessary for understanding a dimension of his productivity. We cannot avoid considering them in our response to the paintings and photographs presented in this particular exhibition. But at each step of the way we find ourselves asking how far he wants us to go with these representatives of "animation".



One way of limiting their participation in our viewing and interpretation of these paintings and photographs is to say that they are simply workers. Their modest presence is a dry reflection on the artist's compulsion to work, a compulsion which over-rides the artist's own understanding of the sources of his inspiration. O'Kane is a conspicuously protean artist, working in a wide variety of media, and exploring an equally wide variety of stylistic strategy. At this point in his career we can see that this variety is leading to an "effacing" of earlier efforts. In each exhibition a new "O'Kane" is being invented. But there is not any deliberate strategy of "breaking" the sense of continuity between one show and the next. Perhaps O'Kane's engagement in his own productive energy has led him to feel that while this questioning is legitimate he cannot provide an answer? Except to say that he is "animated", driven by these resilient "ani-mates" to satisfy his desire to generate new images to test new surfaces and productive technologies.

While the "ani-mates" might be for O'Kane a genuine response to the level and variety of his activities, the viewer of his work will not find in them a verifiable image of work. They are workers, but they show few signs of being marked by their efforts. Perched on their stools they draw over-sized brushes along horizontal lines of color, or they gaze hypnotized by the paintings which have been attributed to them. They do not seem to be artists familiar with the work, but rather tracing over something that their master has created. Their gaze may suggest a calm dedication to the work, but they are innocent of what they have created. What is the value of this illusory representation of art work? Is the significance of this illusion only in the debunking of the nature of inspiration and attribution?

While the ani-mates are deceptive in their representation of work they provide a theatricality which has not been found previously in O'Kane's work. The creation of a private theatre in the context of the interest he has previously shown in the landscape and perception of subjectivity and travel is a risk. Rather than reduce the presence of "Eamon O'Kane", who is so present in the text works





or the "AKA" series, the "ani-mates" manage to invert prior strategies of the painter, photographer, and image-maker. O'Kane re-draws the rhetoric of the actor-impresario. After the curtain has come down the impresario enhances the curiosity of the audience in his powers by making them aware of the back stage help the performer receives.

On stage arrive "the ones without whom it would not have been possible". And isn't this, says an audience member, enjoying his knowledge of theatrical illusion, just another part of the show? The helpers are, of course, only able to function and contribute because of the actor. From this perspective the "animates" feel like pieces in a game, which the viewer can never really play. Imagine if the scenes in Potemkin's villages (the villages that Catherine the Great's first minister had "painted" for her cross country journeys) also included an image in which artists were shown busily making images of villages. If we passed by such "illusory" images we could at least, when we saw the artists at work, congratulate ourselves on our ability to negotiate deception. But is this another way the artist has found to resist a reply to the spectator's insistent questions?

The "ani-mates" or "Bildermacher" may not "convince" us as anything other than "deceptive" expressions of the artist's "anima" and their theatricality may undermine the possible desire to "displace" attention paid to a constant shifting aesthetic investigation, but they root us firmly in the double bind of making images about deception.

The "Bildermacher" work best I think when seen as a deliberately distracting aside. Not a sleight of hand, or a form of narrative, but a theatrical non sequitur. The non sequitur cannot be ignored and it has introduced a fertile suspicion with which to examine the connections that do exist between the paintings and photographs we are looking at. We will begin with "Home" and its description of travel. The desire to travel and the desire expressed in travel are tied to a wish to escape the father. Adjacent is another sign that reminds





us that "things are never expected to real". Both pieces suggest a desire to make an unsentimental journey. How noticeable is the contrast with a dimension of the "Bildermacher", who cannot escape evoking sentimental strategies!

In these images we have what could both be an austere program for the investigation of the sign and an exhilarating image of the pleasures of travel. O'Kane has created multiple images of travel, but we have in these two images an opening through which we can pass a thematic thread that links the "ani-mates" with this sense of ceaseless journeying.

The city series (City I, II, III, IV, VIII, XII), "AZ", "NY", "GrossStadt", "Urbs", "Atlantis", "Storby", or "Topos" are paintings or photographs of a purposeful visitor and not a drifter. Even the images that seem most contingent in the "AKA" series give the viewer the sense that a particular reference has been found in them – perhaps a scene in Kafka's "America", or a de-coding of contemporary mythologies. What distinguishes this traveller is the sense of time that he has on his journey. There are paintings such as "NY" and "AZ" which suggest the mythic time of the city. The city is presented as a series of traces that mark centuries of gradual accretion or decline. The iconography, the post-card imagery, floats with a space created out of "soft" inter-secting planes. In contrast the paintings of Prague and Budapest suggest the pressure of historical time and action, the times of defeat or conquest. And one could suggest a final category as represented by "Atlantis", "GrossStadt" or "Storby" where the digital enhancement suggests a future time and space, a future filtered by the glow of technology and addiction to the sublime.

These future cities are risky, alluring, imbued with an incandescent light, strongly evoking the sunsets of Bierstadt, Cole and Church and the tradition of the American sublime. And hence they reflect back on the American journey. The promise of revitalization or the implosion of the civic hovers over these photographs. They are cities, which even from a distance appear to have a serrated edge, and yet this harshness is tempered in the digital treatments.





Each of these "times" of the city is always placed against the "moment" of the city – the "Postcard City" as O'Kane has described them in the past. It is the "snapshot" of the city, but also the painting of the journey, the transformation of the moment of the photograph into a moment that never happened.

The richness of the photographic work is also in evidence in the "AKA" paintings, which were initially part of the work on O'Kane's "Tourist Interface" project. These paintings are the fruit of a two-year investigation into the American landscape. The paint erases the "reality" of the photograph but over-determines the sign which suggests that "things are never expected to be real". Entering into the work in this way the influence of the "Bildermacher" may appear subdued, peripheral but still linked by theme and context.

The visitor, writing in his diary or taking photographs, absorbs the iconography of America and in doing so contributes new images to the iconography that he is consuming. The role of the artist becomes one of "eminent consumer", who allows his audience to challenge and engage him in a debate about the veracity of the image. "Tourist Interface", with its exploration of the diorama, panorama, and tracking shot, offered a response to the relation between the pleasures and relationship between virtuality and commodification. But while there are pleasures in this and a ready acceptance of the arbitrary sign, there is also an unease with these virtualities. And here perhaps our unease and O'Kane's introduction of "ani-mates" deserve further consideration as a signifier of this uneasiness.

The virtual, the "false", cannot, despite our awareness of its ubiquity, fail to generate a question about the veracity of the painting. And by doing so we do not necessarily fall back into the classical trap of imagining the painting as having a referent. Rather they make of painting a specific inquiry into the possibility of making a "true" out of a "false". The image may be concealing, veiling and deceiving the eye, but the inquiry into the specific form of these "falsities" yields a new form of satisfaction. The interest in the painter's work





becomes the negotiation with a different form of pleasure from that generated by the arbitrary or contingent sign. The sense of liberation is now familiar and predictable. This other satisfaction is more elusive – an encounter with the sliding of the "falsified" image towards an interest in the "truth".

The very conspicuous quality of the "false" unveils a desire for a quality in the image which differs from the "pure" sign. The "unveiling" of a desire to play within these two borders was first indicated in the auto-poetics of works such as "Bedside Reading", "Portfolio" and "Not arranged in any order of preference but it would be nice to hit in and around the bull's eye" but there the biographical reference is perhaps too obvious.

In later works O'Kane has forgone this path of conspicuous self-investigation, the search for a poetics of investigation, and has moved towards the panorama rather than the diary. Both "frames" are attempts to touch on the limit of the complete record. The diorama tries to hold the whole field of vision, while the diary tries to keep a record of every significant event. Both are ways of trying not to miss what may be fleeting and of building up a reservoir of images. And yet they risk an absurdity in presenting intolerance to losing an aspect of the visible. In this tension O'Kane marks out a distinctive and subjective vision which is not simply satisfied with the games that signs enable us to play.

O'Kane's "ani-mate" figures shift our attention from the diaristic quality of "AKA" and the text works. No longer is the evidence of the artist's identity or travels the main reference point for the understanding of the work. In place of those indications that the paintings and photographs are the result of an artist's journey into a landscape, we have a deceptive image of the interior – a deliberately distracting child-like construction where the artist responds to the challenge to release himself from the difficulty of restoring the lost images of the traveller. He has decided to treat his compulsion and productiveness with irony and self-deprecation. In contrast to a search for demons or angels to represent the artist's divisions and fragmentations, Eamon O'Kane has given us figures that combine a gentleness to the spirits of creation with a



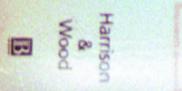


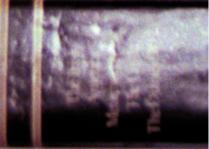
stubborn adherence to their commands. The simplicity of the "ani-mates" form evokes a nostalgia for a form of play which inspired his first attempts to make images.

In the re-discovery of a childhood passion to invent, the "ani-mates" also mark the anguish of accounting for the identity of the artist. They are avatars of earlier struggles of the artist, but their smooth surfaces and impenetrable gaze suggest that the distortions and incongruities have been largely removed. The "ani-mates" are an alternative to a guilty secret for having so many uncertainties and still producing so much. They are a confession made in anticipation of another discovery and a new journey.

Mark Stafford writes on art and psychoanalysis and he lives in New York.







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Ani-mate working on panorama painting

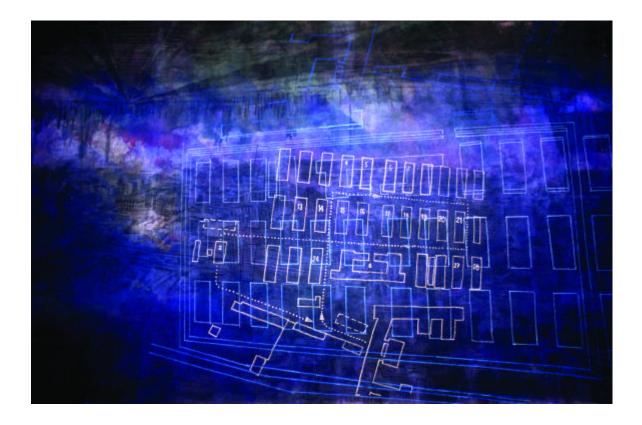


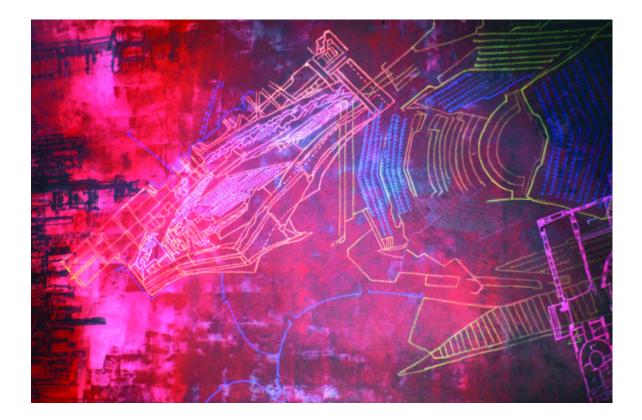
Budapest on the brink of the West (detail) acrylic and mixed media on canvas, 244 x 915 cm 1995-96



Prague as seen from Cavanacor House staircase (detail) acrylic and mixed media on canvas, 244 x 915 cm 1995-96



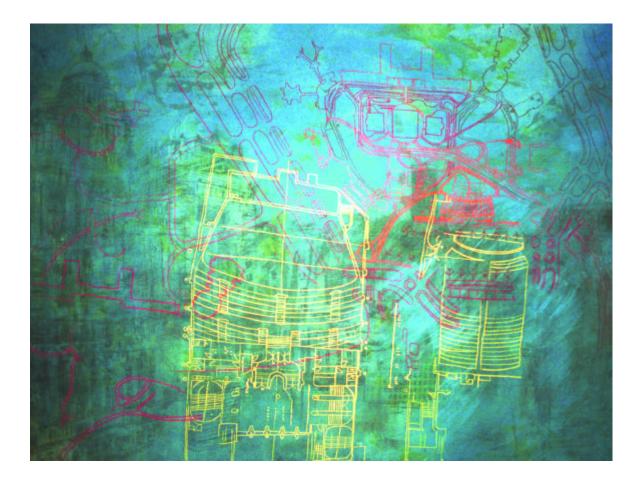


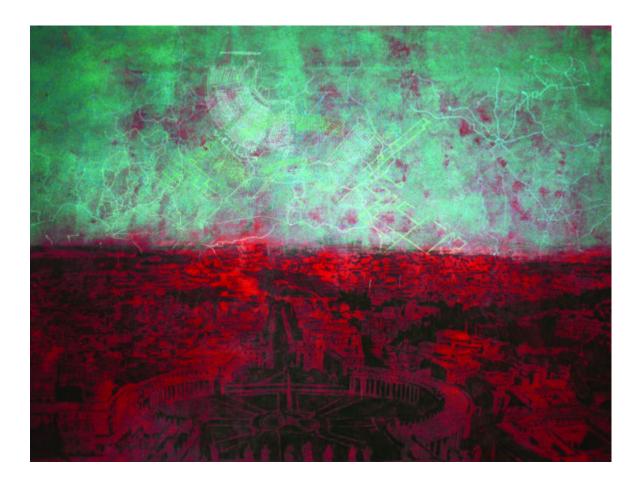


City XII (detail) acrylic and mixed media on canvas, 240 x 490 cm 1997



City IV acrylic and mixed media on canvas, 240 x 490 cm 1997









Mirror Panorama I (after Guillermo Kuitca) (detail) acrylic and mixed media on canvas, 244 x 590 cm 2002



Ani-mates making text painting acrylic on canvas, 180 x 200 cm 2002 ð

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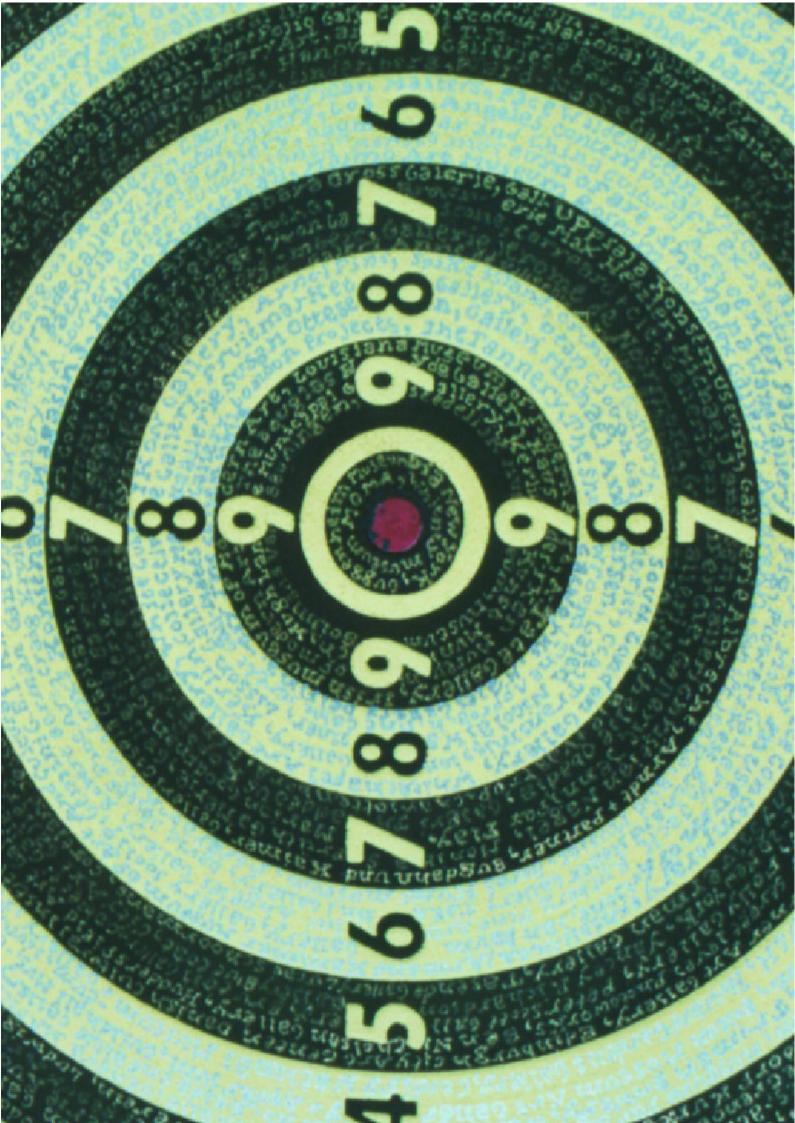
Kafka's trunk oil on trunk 1998



A+Z holidays acrylic on deck chairs 1998



Not arranged in any order of preference but it would be nice to hit in and around the bull's-eye II oil on dartboard 1998 (detail on facing page)





Text painting portfolio oil on portfolio 2002



Bedside reading oil on bedside table 1999 lorman, Cherry Mullen, Paul Thomas, Mary Gallagher, Dorothy Walker, Daniel Cudmore, Donal Lynch, Olivia Reid, Alic n Hannigan, Anders nusiat, Dermot Seymour, Shirley Holland, Dan Shipsides, Mark Joyce, Oliver Power, Kevin Doherty Se, Roisin McCuigan, Bart de Baere, Mickey Donnelly, Joe Smith, Hans Haake, Irvinewelsh, John Souire, Patrici , Roan an McGunagle, Dr.Slavka Sverakova, Angharad Thomas, firs Sharkey, Jenny Raw Jings, Hazel Th

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Ani-mate at photography exhibition





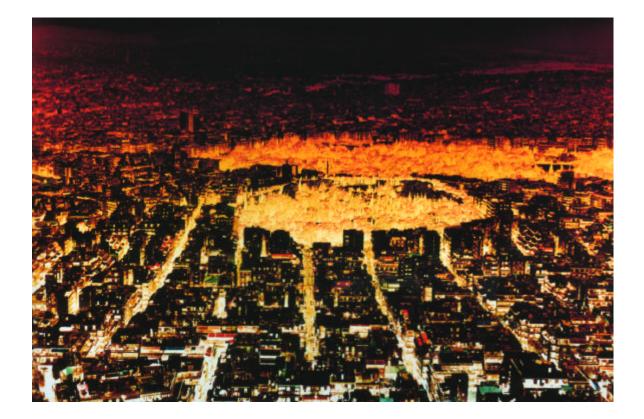
Urbs digital photograph, 122 x 183 cm 1998



GrossStadt digital photograph, 122 x 183 cm 1998



Storby digital photograph, 122 x 183 cm 1998



Atlantis digital photograph, 122 x 183 cm 1999

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Bridge digital photograph, 122 x 183 cm 2000



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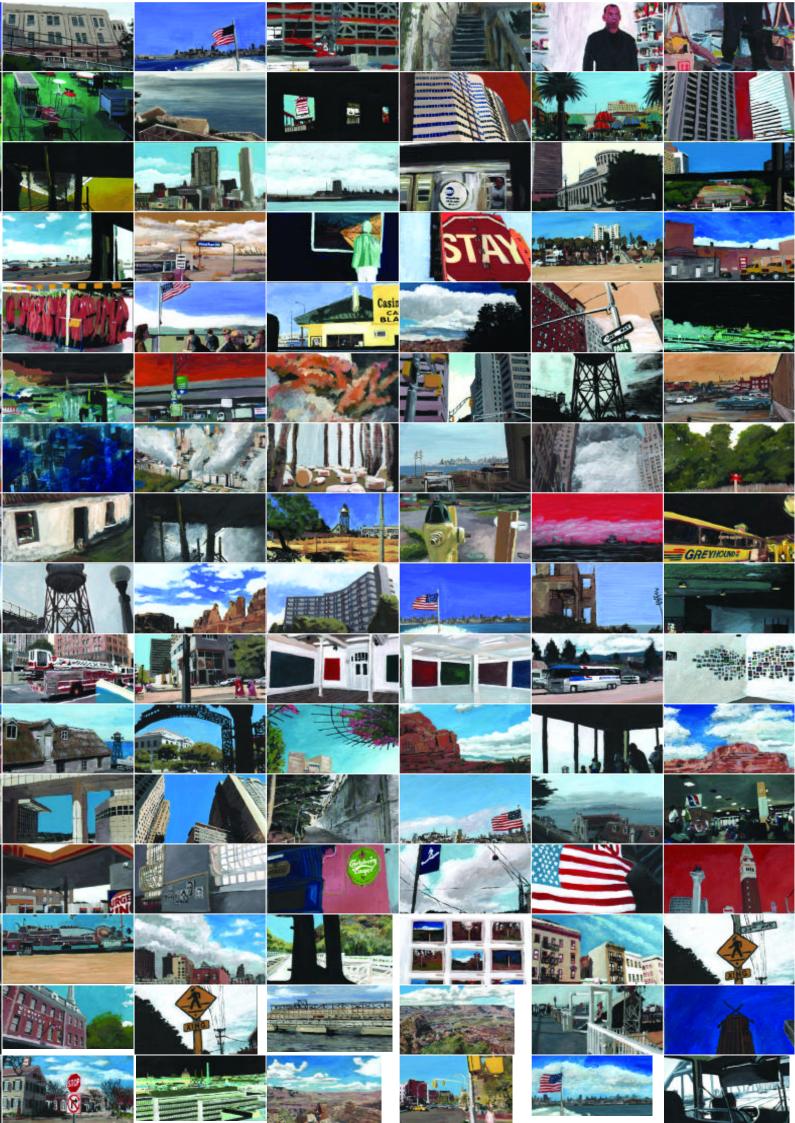
Home digital photograph, 122 x 91.5 cm 2001



Ani-mate working on small painting in the studio

overleaf: AKA acrylic on board, 12 x 18 cm (series of 250 paintings) 2000 -2001









top: the great theatre of Oklahoma is calling you bottom: in the long straight streets of New York acrylic on mdf, 12 x 18 cm 2001





top: if you miss this opportunity, there will never be another bottom: to take that photograph with him on the journey acrylic on mdf, 12 x 18 cm 2001





top: the bread was baked in a cylindrical shape and in each of the loaves was stuck a long knife bottom: to catch his father's gaze from various angles acrylic on mdf, 12 x 18 cm 2001

## eamon o'kane

1974 1992-96 1996-98 1998-99 1999-01	Born Ireland BA Hons Fine Art NCAD Dublin MFA University of Ulster, Belfast Research Fellowship, CGCHE, England MFA Design Technology, Parsons School of Design, New York Currently works in Bristol
	a w a r d s / r e s i d e n c e s
2002 2000	Residency, Tilburg Art Academy, Holland General Art Award, Arts Council of Northern Ireland KPMG AWARD, Dublin
1999 1998	Fulbright Award Tony O'Malley Award, Butler Gallery Emerging Artist Award, Donegal
1997	Residency, Athens Drawing Prize (joint prize), IONTAS, Dublin
1996	Postgraduate Bursary, British Council Taylor Art Award, Dublin
1995 1994	Thomas Damman Jr. Award, Dublin Erasmus residency, Academy of Fine Arts, Rotterdam Elizabeth Fitzpatrick Scholarship, Dublin Residency, Koninklijke Academie voor Schone Kunsten, Ghent
	solo exhibitions
2002	Galerie Schuster & Scheuermann, Berlin Galerie Schuster, Frankfurt Neuffer, Pirmasens, Germany
2002 2001	Galerie Schuster, Frankfurt Neuffer, Pirmasens, Germany 011 Podium, Tilburg, Holland AKA II, Belltable Arts Centre, Limerick Fenderesky Gallery, Belfast
	Galerie Schuster, Frankfurt Neuffer, Pirmasens, Germany 011 Podium, Tilburg, Holland AKA II, Belltable Arts Centre, Limerick Fenderesky Gallery, Belfast After Kafka's America, Hallward Gallery, Dublin Proportion, Galleri Lisse Bruun, Copenhagen This Indenture, Donskoj + Co. Gallery, Kingston, USA Extension, Irish Arts Centre, New York City AKA etc., Planet M, Hannover Expo Tourist Interface, Orchard Gallery, Derry An American Cross Section, Butler Gallery, Kilkenny
2001	Galerie Schuster, Frankfurt Neuffer, Pirmasens, Germany 011 Podium, Tilburg, Holland AKA II, Belltable Arts Centre, Limerick Fenderesky Gallery, Belfast After Kafka's America, Hallward Gallery, Dublin Proportion, Galleri Lisse Bruun, Copenhagen This Indenture, Donskoj + Co. Gallery, Kingston, USA Extension, Irish Arts Centre, New York City AKA etc., Planet M, Hannover Expo Tourist Interface, Orchard Gallery, Derry An American Cross Section, Butler Gallery, Kilkenny HTML, Javascript, The USA etc., GALLERI 21, Malmö Postcard Cities, KoRaw Gallery@Bankside, London
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2001 2000 1999	Galerie Schuster, Frankfurt Neuffer, Pirmasens, Germany 011 Podium, Tilburg, Holland AKA II, Belltable Arts Centre, Limerick Fenderesky Gallery, Belfast After Kafka's America, Hallward Gallery, Dublin Proportion, Galleri Lisse Bruun, Copenhagen This Indenture, Donskoj + Co. Gallery, Kingston, USA Extension, Irish Arts Centre, New York City AKA etc., Planet M, Hannover Expo Tourist Interface, Orchard Gallery, Derry An American Cross Section, Butler Gallery, Kilkenny HTML, Javascript, The USA etc., GALLERI 21, Malmö Postcard Cities, KoRaw Gallery@Bankside, London KOORDINATER MCMIC, Overgaden, Copenhagen Galleri Lisse Bruun, Copenhagen OCCUPATION MCMXCVIII, Basement Gallery, Dundalk Invisible Cities, Letterkenny Arts Centre, Letterkenny

## group exhibitions (selection)

2002	Curio, Brick Lane, London Summer Show, Cavanacor Gallery, Co. Donegal
	Summer Exhibition, Hallward Gallery, Dublin
	Photographs, Frankfurt Art Fair, Frankfurt RHA Annual Exhibition, RHA, Dublin
	Recent Acquisitions, Bank of Ireland Arts Centre, Dublin
	Mostyn Open 12, Oriel Mostyn Gallery, Llandudno
	EV+A 2002, Limerick, LCGA, Limerick
	AKA III, Stockholm Art Fair, Stockholm
2001	Crawford Open 2001, Crawford Gallery, Cork
	Articulate, Station, Bristol
	Vinterudstilling, Galerie Pi, Copenhagen
	Christmas Exhibition, Hallward Gallery, Dublin
	Mindscape, Cavanacor Gallery, Co. Donegal
	ArtLink Selected IYA, Victoria Park Plaza Hotel, London
	Victor Treacy Award Exhibition, Butler Gallery, Kilkenny
	Vacationland, Art House, Dublin
	Rondout Sculpture Biennal, Kingston, USA
	I/O, Parsons Gallery, New York City
	EV+A Expanded, LCGA, Limerick
2000	RHA Annual Exhibition, RHA, Dublin
2000	PERSPECTIVE 2000, Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast Microsoft Art Exhibition, Dublin
	Iontas 2000, RHA, Dublin and touring
	Snapshot, Contemporary Museum, Baltimore and touring
	Refresh: Dystopia + identity in the age of global communication,
	Tribes Gallery, New York City
	Greetings From, buses in New York City + Dublin
	Extracts, Engine Room Gallery, Belfast
	RHA Annual Exhibition, RHA, Dublin
	Oireachtas, Dun Laoghaire
	Irish Art Exhibition, Vine Gallery, Louisville, USA
	Self Portraits, Deep Dale, New York City
	Irish Arts 2000, Studio 1019, Washington DC
	Florence Biennale, Ashford Gallery, Dublin
1999	Florence Biennale, Florence
	Group show, Context Gallery, Derry
	Microsoft Art Exhibition, Dublin
	Documentation etc., Pittville Gallery, Cheltenham Sommerudstilling, Galerie Pi, Copenhagen
	Summer Exhibition, Hallward Gallery, Dublin
	Sommerudstilling, Galleri Lisse Bruun, Copenhagen
	EV+A Reduced, LCGA, Limerick
	Glaxo Velkommen, Glaxart, Brøndby, Denmark
	The Ida Branson Bequest Exhibition, Atkinson Gallery, Somerset
	ArtLink@Sotheby's, Tel Aviv and Chicago
1998	Decemberudstilling, Galleri Lisse Bruun, Copenhagen
	Christmas exhibition, Hallward Gallery, Dublin
	Absolut Secret, Dublin, London, New York
	Industria Art Exhibition, Clifton Hall, Dublin
	M2 Fax Box Project, Banana Factory, Bethlehem, USA
	Forest, The Bull and Last, London
	United Nations Exhibition, City Hall, Copenhagen
	Hardline, Catalyst Arts, Belfast

1998	PERSPECTIVE '98, Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast It's All in the Genes, Ballance House, N. Ireland Sommerudstilling, Galleri Lisse Bruun, Copenhagen Connect, Drogheda & Newry train stations
1997	RHA Annual Exhibition, RHA, Dublin Vinterudstilling, Galerie Pi, Copenhagen Galleriets Kunstere, Galleri Lisse Bruun, Copenhagen Drawing and Watercolour Exhibition, Sligo Arts Centre Finale, One Oxford Street Gallery, Belfast Museum of the Twentieth Century, Catalyst Arts, Belfast Clioth is dealain, Letterkenny Arts Centre The Ideal Academy, RHA Banquet Show, Dublin Microsoft Art Exhibition, Dublin Iontas, Dublin and touring Reading Rooms, Catalyst Arts Gallery, Belfast RHA Annual Exhibition, RHA, Dublin The Third Electronic Art Exhibition, Pisa
1995-96	Open Plan, Catalyst Arts, Belfast EXPO '96, RDS, Dublin NCAD Gallery 250 years, Gallagher Gallery, Dublin Royal Ulster Academy, Ulster Museum, Belfast Taylor Art Award Exhibition, RDS, Dublin RHA Annual Exhibition, RHA, Dublin Group Exhibition, Bank of Ireland, London 12th Cleaveland Drawing Biennale, Middlesborough Impressions, Galway Arts Centre, Galway Northwestern Artists, Sligo Art Gallery, Sligo RHA Banquet Show, RHA, Dublin Oireachtas '95, Guinness Hop Store, Dublin
1993-94	North by Northwest, Letterkenny and Belfast Manifestatie Laurenskwartier, CBK, Rotterdam Oireachtas '94, Guinness Hop Store, Dublin Taylor Art Award Exhibition, RDS, Dublin Iontas '94, Sligo Arts Centre, Sligo
	collections (selection)
	Aras An Uachtarain, Mary McAleese (commission) Bank of Ireland Collection Country Bank, New York, USA Den Danske Bank, Denmark Donegal County Library DUBLIN 98FM Radio Station Dundalk Institute of Technology (commission) Hillsborough Castle (commission) HK, Denmark Irish Contemporary Arts Society Letterkenny Institute of Technology Microsoft Ireland NKT, Denmark Office of Public Works, Ireland PMPA and Guardian Insurance UNIBANK, Denmark

# bibliography

2002	'Avantgarde aus Ireland', Die Rheinpfalz
	Hansheiner Ritzer, 'Ich bin ein Bildermacher', Pirmasenser Zeitung
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	Aidan Dunne, 'A rewardingly obsessive attention to artistic
	detail', Irish Times
2001	Aidan Dunne, 'Maintaining classical calm in life's flux', Irish Times
	Jane Humphries (ed), 'A Buyer's Guide to Irish Art', Ashville
	Media Group Ltd, Dublin
	Mary Cassai, 'Kingston Biennial changes beat', Daily Freeman
	Declan Kiberd, 'Millenium Box Set' Hot Bed Press, Limerick
	Aidan Dunne, 'Cautionary Tale of a Gallery Guide', Irish Times
	Eric Beazley, 'AKA by Eamon O'Kane', www.entertainmentireland.ie
2000	Mary Cassai, 'Art Beat', Daily Freeman
	Catalogue 'An American Cross Section', text by Fiona Kearney,
	Butler Gallery
	'Nord Kunst', TV interview, Malmö
	Brid Nelson, 'Anything Irish', TV interview, Woodstock, USA
1999	Roberta Reeners (ed), 'A Buyer's Guide to Irish Art', Ashville
	Media Group Ltd, Dublin
	Richard Brophy, 'Who's Who in Ireland?', Dublin
	Catalogue 'Florence Biennale', text by Bruce Arnold, Florence
	Ruth Jones, 'Niamh O'Malley, Eamon O'Kane, Joanna Fursman',
	SSI magazine
	Mark Currah, 'Sean Hillen, Eamon O'Kane', Time Out London
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	Ole Reitov, 'Kulturnyt', Danmarks Radio P1
	Schierbeck, Ole, 'Irsk kulturfremstød i Danmark', Politiken
	Mette Olsen, 'Irerne kommer til byen', Jyllandsposten
1998	Catalogue 'Panorama Athens', text by Libens & Diggle, ELIA
	Matthew Hendry, 'Artist of the month', Arts Link
	Derval FitzGerald, 'Art on the line', CIRCA
	Catalogue 'MFA catalogue', text by Slavka Sverakova
	Slavka Sverakova, 'Eamon O'Kane: Selected work 1997/98'
1997	Gavin Weston, 'Museum of the 20th Century', Sunday Times
	Catalogue 'Iontas '97', text by Ruairi O'Cuiv, Sligo
1996	Brian Fallon, '250 years of Irish Drawing', Irish Times
	Aidan Dunne, 'NCAD degree exhibitions', The Tribune
	Brian Fallon, 'NCAD Degree Show', Irish Times
	Medb Ruane, 'NCAD Degree Show', Sunday Times
	Brian Fallon, 'The RHA comes back to life', Irish Times
1995	'Manifestatie Laurenskwartier,' text by E. Vermeulen, Rotterdam

opposite: I find it difficult to justify playing with these toys so I think I'll paint them acrylic on mdf, 10 x 15 cm (series of 200 paintings) 2002

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## publisher

galerie schuster, frankfurt galerie schuster & scheuermann, berlin

### design

anja musiat eamon o'kane helmut schuster

#### editors

helmut schuster anja musiat eamon o'kane

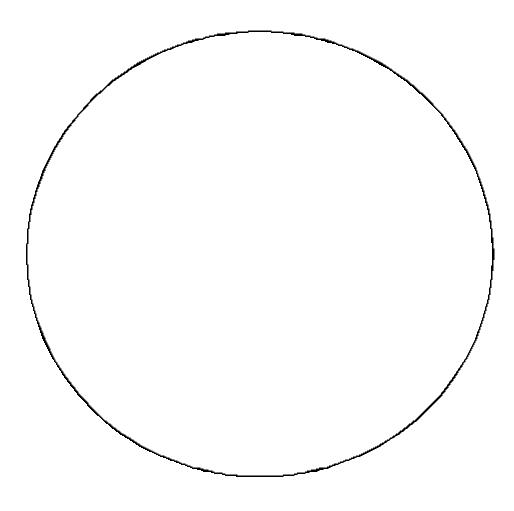
#### photographs

eamon o'kane anja musiat

## printing

## acknowledgements

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#### Installing the 'Private View' CD-ROM

Put the '**Private View**' CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive. This should auto-run immediately. If it does not auto-run, click **Start** on the menu bar and choose **Run**. Type d:/Projector.exe (where d=the letter of your CD-ROM drive) and click **OK**. If you do not have QuickTime Software installed on your computer you should install it from the folder on the CD-ROM. This '**Private View**' CD-ROM should ideally be run on a monitor resolution of 800x600 at 16 bit colours. It is designed to run on both Macintosh PPC and Windows 95/98.

Included on the '**Private View**' CD-ROM are printable translations of the essay and the interview.



For over ten years Eamon O'Kane has been secretly working with a group of art assistants. These 'Bildermacher' (imagemakers) or ani-mates have been making the artist's work at night while he sleeps. Until now, O'Kane has chosen to keep this confidential. *Die Bildermacher* is the first glimpse of a world inhabited by colour-coded studio workers who toil away with no other goal than to make art-work for an increasingly demanding artist.