

Wonderful Life

Monday 19th July - Saturday 16th October, 1993

TERENCE BOND
CHRISTINE BORLAND
DON BROWN
RODERICK BUCHANAN
CHRISTOPHER BUCKLOW
ADAM CHODZKO
MARTIN CREED
CLEM CROSBY
JEREMY DICKINSON
GRAHAM FAGEN
THOMAS GIDLEY
LIAM GILLICK
DOUGLAS GORDON

GRAHAM GUSSIN
MAGNUS HAMMICK
SIOBHÁN HAPASKA
DAMIEN HIRST
GARY HUME
CALLUM INNES
JAKI IRVINE
JOHN ISAACS
MARYSIA LEWANDOWSKA
BRIGID LOWE
ALEXANDER MARIS
JASON MARTIN
ANDREW McNIVEN

STEPHEN MURPHY
SIMON PATTERSON
STEVEN PIPPIN
P.J. REILLY
PHILIP RILEY
CHARLES SANDISON
CATHY SHARP
BRIDGET SMITH
GEORGINA STARR
SAM TAYLOR-WOOD
GEORGIA VAUX
GRAHAM WESTFIELD
JANE WILSON & LOUISE WILSON

It is hard to speak about a show we have not yet seen, however the following ideas and information are an attempt to describe the basis for its formation. Since 1990 the world has changed more dramatically than many people have ever experienced, especially the generation born since 1960. It could be argued that if the cultural and economic predicates of the 1980s were reversed we would have a reasonably accurate description of the present time. Under different circumstances, artists in particular, have historically found ways of articulating a response.

To look at new work openly, with new possibilities for the future, is always an interesting experience. We hope that it will be equally so for the spectator. The show is neither intended to be inclusive or exclusive, and no doubt there are many artists whose work we have not seen. It is maybe remarkable that one can find forty artists, mostly relatively unknown, whose work is sufficiently interesting to be exhibited. Showing as many as forty artists is inevitably a risky thing to do but we want to be supportive to what lies ahead on the basis that history does not make itself, it has to be made.

There is no a clear thematic criteria in the choice of artists but the selection is based around people who we believe have made interesting work and who are working with concerns and perspectives different to those that predominated during the last decade. The exhibition includes painting, sculpture, audio, computer activated, film, installation, language, photographic and video work. The work is not shown in any chronological or categorical order, but is installed with a view to making possible unforeseen connections between works which may initially appear to be unrelated. The exhibition has been installed with the intention of giving a sense of the range and historical depth of each artists' work, however short their history.

The title, *Wonderful Life*, has been taken from the book by Stephen Jay Gould subtitled *The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History*, published in 1989. The narrative of the book records the extraordinary diversity of fossils found in the Burgess Shale 500 million years ago and its relevance to the evolution of life.

It is our hope that the exhibition will be helpful in gaining a better comprehension of new and recent work by emerging artists. We have every hope that the show will be interesting to us and to the public.

Many thanks to all of the artists for their belief in the idea of this show, to the gallery staff who have worked long and hard on the preparation, to James Roberts for all his help and advice, to the private lenders for their support, and to Becks and Anthony Fawcett for sponsoring the private view.