

The logo for ROLLO Contemporary Art is a grey square with the word "ROLLO" in a large, serif font and "CONTEMPORARY ART" in a smaller, sans-serif font below it.

ROLLO
CONTEMPORARY ART

Caught in a Moment
Kinetic Art and Sculptures
MARGARET MICHEL AND CLAIRE MORGAN
16th January – 28th February 2009

ROLLO will be kicking off the 2009 art programme with an exhibition of Kinetic art and sculptures, by American artist **Margaret Michel** and award winning British installation artist **Claire Morgan**. The exhibition brings together two cutting edge contemporary artists, using unusual materials to investigate movement, form and space.

Margaret Michel (born 1955) creates moving art works by fusing found materials with motors. Her art works investigate space and movement, deconstructed and transformed, and their relationship to our mental and physical world. Using found or recycled objects; disassembled umbrellas, women's stockings, x-rays and shoe forms, as well as objects from technology; disk-drive motors, machine parts and resistors, all objects are disassociated from their original functions, dissembled and transformed into animated constructions. Creating an imaginative world, Michel's work embraces play, the absurd and freedom, whilst it can also be read as making a satirical commentary on our times and man's position within science and technology. The artist says, '*I delight in finding a poetic beauty through assembling and combining ordinary objects or by animating them in uncommon ways.*'

Michel's work has been exhibited extensively throughout France and the US; in many public as well as private galleries, including a major solo show at Musee d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain, Nice, France in 2006, *Intrinsic Values* at the International Academy of Art, Vallauris, France (2005), *Exhibition* at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Rental Gallery, San Francisco, California, US (2001). Michel has been awarded *Triangle D'Art Invite d'honneur des Etats Unis, Breuil sur Roya, France* (2001), "Sculpture sous le Soleil d'Antibes" laureat, Antibes France (2000) *Kinetic Art* prize, (1997) Sebastopol Center for the Arts, Sebastopol, CA and was nominated for the *SECA Award*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA in 1995.

Claire Morgan (born 1980) has gained international notoriety for her installations using organic materials; rotting fruit, growing seeds, taxidermied animals and insects, creating objects and site specific installations, which simultaneously evoke beauty and horror. Sculpting installations from thousands of small fragments of material suspended in geometric precision, Morgan's work explores material form and space. Perfect order is then disrupted with the intrusion of a taxidermy animal, displacing its geometric surrounding structure. For ROLLO, Morgan will use bluebottles, spiders, a taxidermy squirrel and birds to create four arresting new sculptures encased within 50cm cubes. The smaller scale of the work will not

however reduce Morgan's painstaking intricacy for which her monumental works are famed. Within one 50cm cube, Morgan will suspend over 20,000 flies on 2,000 threads.

Morgan has been awarded the Royal British Society of Sculptors Annual Bursary and Roy Noakes Awards for *Come Fly With Me*, in 2004, the first prize for Red or Dead in the Premio Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro, International Competition for Young Sculptors, Milan 2006 (for artists under the age of 40), and in 2007 she was selected as one of the Courvoisier Future 500 ranking top 10 for art and design. Morgan has been commissioned by a wide range of prestigious institutions such as the National Trust, Canterbury City Council, Newcastle Great Northern Run Cultural Programme. Morgan was commissioned to design Selfridges' world famous in-store Christmas installation, bringing art with Morgan's edgy twist to the retail space. Currently Morgan's work is on show at James Hockney and Foyer Galleries, Surrey, for which her major solo show has gained critical acclaim.

Together at ROLLO, Morgan and Michel's art works, made from extraordinary materials, epitomize cutting edge contemporary art.

For further details contact: Philippa Found, philippa@rolloart.com, +44 (0)207 580 0020

A private view will be held at ROLLO Contemporary Art on 15th January 2009 from 6.30- 8.30 pm.

The artists are available for interview.