

press release

DEREK BOSHIER

NEW PAINTINGS / CHEMICAL CULTURE SERIES

Private View Friday 17 October 6-8pm



Flowers

21 Cork St
London
W1S 3LZ

18 October – 15 November 2008

Opening times: Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-2

Derek Boshier is widely regarded as one of the pioneers of British Pop Art. While often canonised as a finite movement confined to the 1960s, Pop Art in fact marked the beginning of a liberated approach to the appropriation of imagery that has continued to flourish into the twenty-first century. Boshier used the idioms of Pop, synthesising clusters of media-derived imagery into hypertextual and optically arresting visual narratives, to make statements about contemporary politics and the globalisation of art and culture.

In the 1970s, Boshier took a hiatus from painting and embarked on a mercurial – and always prolific – exploration of a broad range of visual practices including drawing, printmaking, the creation of three-dimensional objects, installation and photography. He moved to America in 1980, immersing himself in the culture of political posturing and rampant commercialism that his work up to that point had obliquely, or else overtly, critiqued. After 13 years in Texas followed by a brief return to the UK, he finally settled in Los Angeles in 1997, where he continues to produce work that fizzles, and ‘Pops’, with a sharply focussed critical vigour.

The large-scale paintings and mixed media studies brought together in this exhibition extend Boshier’s playfully subversive brand of sensationalism from sex and rock ‘n’ roll (he has played fast and loose with *Vogue* magazine covers and semi-fictional British tabloids, as well as producing album artwork for The Clash and David Bowie) to include a visual treatise on the subject of drugs. The cowboy character that appeared in many of his Texas paintings is reinvented here, evolving, or rather devolving, into a multitude of jigsaw puzzle pieces that destabilise the bold colour fields into a toxic bleed. Cocaine Cowboy, along with Chemical Rocker and Model Citizen – further members of Boshier’s crew of malignant modern icons – literalise the dehumanisation that the artist sees as endemic within consumer-oriented societies. Here, the ubiquitous idols of our time – stars of the athletics track, celebrity demi-gods and urban outlaws clutching microphones, guitars or guns – fragment into abstract atomic forms. These punchy, playful new works make bold statements about the disintegration underlying the seductive gloss and commercial muscularity of our universal iconography.

Derek Boshier: New Paintings / Chemical Culture Series is the first exhibition to take place at the newly renovated Flowers, Cork Street. A Grand Opening of the new space will take place on Saturday 18 October, from 10am – 1pm.

For further information and images, please contact Ellie Harrison-Read on 020 7920 7777 or email ellie@flowerseast.com.

Flowers 21 Cork St London W1S 3LZ T: 020 7439 7766 www.flowerseast.com