

BOWL ME OVER BY RUTH PROCTOR

EXHIBITION OPEN 7 OCTOBER – 12 NOVEMBER 2006
PRIVATE VIEW: SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER 2006, 6 – 9 PM

'1969

Bob & Earl
Harlem shuffle'

You move it to the left, yeah
Then you go for yourself
You move it to the right, yeah
If it takes all night

Now take it kinda slow
With a whole lot of soul
Don't move it too fast
And make it last

You know you scratch just like a monkey, yeah, you do
Real, yeah
You slide into the limbo, yeah
How low can you go?

But come on, baby
I don't want you to scuffle now
You just groove it right here
To the Harlem shuffle

Yeah, yeah, yeah
Do the Harlem shuffle (Oh, do the monkey shine now)
Yeah, yeah, yeah
Do the Harlem shuffle

Hitch, hitch-hike baby
Across the floor
Whoa, whoa, whoa
I can't stand it no more

Now come on, baby
Now get into your slide
We're gonna ride, ride, ride
Do the pony ride, Yeah

Shake, shake, shake
Shake a tail feather, baby, oooh!
Shake, shake, shake
Shake a tail feather, baby, oooh!

Shake, shake, shake
Shake a tail feather, baby, oooh!

End.

Ruth Proctor's installations are perfectly balanced. Literally. Moving, or removing, even the smallest object, the lightest bangle or carefully knotted tie, would cause the whole structure to destabilise and fall.

Her painstakingly composed structures are built in response to the space in which they are being shown and are inspired by the spectacle of sports such as ice-skating, ballroom dancing, darts and badminton.

Working with a variety of found and created objects, Proctor's installations explore the connections between spectatorship and performance and the apparent futility that underlies the delicate balance of this relationship.

Past works have featured large cast iron hoops, reminiscent of a gymnast's apparatus, secured together with accoutrements of the spectacle — gold chains, men's ties and collars, dart flights, bangles, old videotape and dancing shoes. They are starkly graphic and mainly monochrome, and speak of the visual language of music, contemporary fashion and modernist graphics, as well as the fantastic set pieces of Busby Berkley.

Questioning how this spectacle is constructed and preserved is at the heart of her work. The fluidity of the structures are punctuated and disrupted by the objects that support it and these objects become at once accessory, support mechanism and interrogator.

Constructed for a specific space and for a fixed length of time, the installations are also performances in their own right. As a former ice-skating champion, Proctor is only too aware of the transience of the specular relationship and of the life-span of the sportsman or sportswoman at the centre of it. There is an aspect to her work that is saying, watch it now because it won't be here forever.

Ruth Proctor lives and works in London and graduated from the RCA in 2005. She is showing concurrently at Center — Berlin.

• Hollybush Gardens will be participating in Zoo Art Fair 13 – 15 October and NADA, Miami, 6 – 10 December 2006.

GALLERY OPEN 12 – 6 PM
THURSDAY – SUNDAY
OR BY APPOINTMENT

HOLLYBUSH GARDENS
UNIT 2, BJ HOUSE
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE
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