

BUTLER ■ GALLERY

Sonia Shiel

The Brief Tremendous

November 29, 2008 – January 18, 2009

The Butler Gallery is delighted to host *The Brief Tremendous*, an exhibition of new works by Dublin based artist Sonia Shiel.

Using a wide cross-use of aspirational and monumental materials, Sonia Shiel's work stages faux assessments and crude manifestations of natural and man-made phenomena. Each of the works for the Butler Gallery appears to 'calculate' wonder, applying notions of aptitude, enquiry or scrutiny to the 'unquantifiable,' from the ephemeral to the infinite.

Conjuring up images of the sublime, Shiel's luminous painting defies easy classification. While she is clearly a painter of skill and proficiency, Shiel is also a maker, deftly creating sculptural assemblage out of everyday disposable materials with a degree of studied low-tech prowess. Her video works are realized with an inventor's sense of playfulness and the resultant installations have a guileless integrity to them. Shiel is equipped with an astute eye, a spirited intelligence and the instinct of a modern day Copernicus. Her sense of adventure pilots us to exceedingly interesting places from fantastical landscapes to nocturnal skies fuelling our desire '...to boldly go where no man has gone before.' In *The Brief Tremendous*, Shiel successfully brings together a diverse range of media creating a compelling body of work that is at its heart incandescent.

Sonia Shiel was born in 1975 and lives and works in Dublin. Recent group shows include 'I CAN/CAN I?' at Temple Bar Gallery and Studios and 'Phoenix Park' at the Kerlin Gallery, Dublin. Recent solo exhibitions include 'Small as in Epic' at the Cable Factory in Helsinki and 'Babel's Biting the Moon' at FOUR. In 2007, Shiel completed her MA in Visual Art Practices from IADT, was selected to represent Ireland on the HIAP Residency in Helsinki and received the Tony O'Malley Travel Award from the Butler Gallery. Upcoming shows include a solo at Temple Bar Gallery and Studios.

**Butler Gallery
The Castle
Kilkenny
Ireland**