

BUTLER ■ GALLERY

tally

Theresa Nanigian

December 10, 2005 – February 5, 2006

The Butler Gallery is delighted to present *tally*, a multi-media exhibition by Theresa Nanigian. Exploring the increasingly blurred distinction between commerce and culture, this new body of work is a continuation of the artist's **SITUATION ASSESSMENT™** series, and investigates our compulsion for easy answers and naïve self-help remedies. Here, Nanigian adopts the tools of the commercial trade, exploiting the power of these time-tested devices while also critiquing their disproportionate influence over our lives.

The multi-media works in *tally* take full advantage of a professional service firm's "bag of tricks". Through the use of branding, PowerPoint lectures and hard statistics, *tally* assesses our contemporary Western situation on many levels. Themes such as our drive to acquire possessions and experiences are addressed alongside notions of our increasing sense of a loss of time in our daily lives. The ways in which these realities of life are articulated in the popular media through surveys, raw data and pie charts are also co-opted and subverted.

Nanigian's American nationality is a subtle, but important, undercurrent throughout the exhibition. *tally's* slick and polished sensibility speaks to the U.S. cultural focus on corporate enterprise, and the profound leakage of capitalism into everyday language and aesthetics. Two of the works, *1 ice storm* and *leading indicators 2.1*, in particular, consider the complexities of what it means to be an American living abroad in today's political climate. On the one hand, there is the comfort and familiarity of one's own identity—belonging to a certain history and tradition, and on the other hand, there is the rational desire to access an objective conclusion of just how the United States measures up in the global landscape. This body of work addresses these issues with intelligence and humour and also encourages us to review our own position on commerce and culture in the worldwide community.

By putting both the personal and the global under the microscope, *tally* echoes our efforts to make sense of complexity through simple calculations and quick fixes – be it in our own personal lives or in how we understand the world. While the works could be viewed as a cynical take on the simplistic self-help culture, they also make an effort to give hope more airtime, according the *good* news its fair share of the information limelight.

Nanigian was born in Maryland, USA and lives and works in Dublin. She received a BA in Business Administration at Babson College, Massachusetts in 1983 and an MBA at Columbia University, New York in 1986. Her business career encompassed a number of positions including management consulting at McKinsey & Company and running a worldwide technology division at American Express where she was a Senior Vice President. She then returned to university and received a BFA from the Dublin Institute of Technology in 2002 and an MFA in Media from the National College of Art and Design in 2004. Nanigian's work has recently been included in a solo exhibition in the Concourse Installation Series, Dun Laoghaire, *Damaged Collateral* Context Galleries, Derry, Claremorris Open Exhibition, *The Happiest Country in the World* Oireachtas na Gaeilge, Dublin and Festival Interceltique de Lorient, Brittany, *live* Interim Projekte, Frankfurt, STAC, St. James, New York (2005), *Full Circle* Temple Bar Gallery & Studios, Dublin, Tulca Visual Arts Festival, Galway, *Crawford Open 5* Cork, 291 Gallery and Space-twotentwo in London (2004), *ev+a*, Limerick (2003), Dublin Castle and Temple Bar Meeting House Square, Dublin (2002).

ADMISSION FREE

Butler Gallery, The Castle, Kilkenny, Ireland

t + 353 56 7761106 f +353 56 7770031

Email: info@butlergallery.com

www.butlergallery.co