

BUTLER ■ GALLERY



David Sandlin

May 13th – June 18th, 2006

The Butler Gallery is delighted to present *Wonderfool World*, the first exhibition in Ireland by the renowned New York artist, David Sandlin.

David Sandlin was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in 1956. In 1972, at the age of fifteen, he moved with his parents to Hanceville, Alabama. After finishing high school at sixteen, Sandlin moved to Birmingham, Alabama, and received a B.A. from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1979. In 1980 he moved to New York City, where he now lives with his wife, Joni, and son, Jake. He currently teaches at the School of Visual Arts.

Sandlin's art first appeared in New York on the streets of the Lower East Side, in the form of hand-screened political posters and prints advertising local art and music events. In 1983 he joined the Gracie Mansion Gallery, a pioneer of the East Village art scene. Sandlin's comics have appeared in *RAW*, *Strappazin*, *Blab*, *Nozone*, *Zero Zero*, and other publications. He has also published illustrations in *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times*. Sandlin has exhibited his prints, paintings, books, and installations throughout the United States and in Europe, Japan, and Australia.

It is about time that David Sandlin's fantastic visual universe became known to an Irish audience. Sandlin has remained connected to the country of his birth through friends—he sat beside the artist Dermot Seymour in primary school—and through his art, which continues to possess essential references to his origins. Despite, or possibly because of this quirky background, he is a true New York denizen; having lived and worked in that city since 1980.

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For over twenty-five years, Sandlin has been making art that encompasses painting, printmaking, books and installations—all equally dynamic and animated. Sandlin has an acerbic wit that reveals itself in how he approaches his questions about the world in which we live. He is an urban storyteller, spinning tales with words and pictures, and his iconography employs a heady mix of narrative imagery and allegory that is distinctly American. Sandlin's wife and son feature prominently in his work, and in recent years themes have also emerged stemming from his father's death and the idea of passing a legacy, a history onto the next generation.

Sandlin's epic figurative paintings require thoughtful reading and reward the viewer greatly. His work combines the carnivalesque with the cartoon, and thus *Wonderfool World* takes us on a fabulous roller-coaster ride that is provocative, entertaining and immensely worthwhile.

ADMISSION FREE

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