

Nevan Lahart

## STATIC TV

April 28<sup>th</sup> – June 10, 2007

The Butler Gallery is proud to host STATIC TV by Kilkenny native Nevan Lahart.

Nevan Lahart does not make 'easy' art. Undeniably witty yet confrontational, his work begs us to ask questions of ourselves and of the contemporary society in which we live. Lahart has strong opinions on almost every issue, which is reflected in his multi-dimensional work. The narrative is smart and politically current and his adept use of humour sweetens the discourse. He is a complicated town crier - he hollers and wakes us out of our complacency. Lahart likes to 'stir it up' whilst always keeping it interesting to the viewer and to himself. One suspects that he bores easily and needs to keep things stoked, otherwise why bother?

Nevan Lahart is an artist comfortable working in a variety of mediums - painting, sculpture, installation, video animations and performance. This exhibition will include over ninety-five of the TV paintings - cutout TV shapes that create a framework for containment. These 'static' TV images while undeniably still, have a narrative life to them that fuels our imagination. The paintings have a raw, roughly hewn quality to them and often include distinctive cartoon-like typography. The exhibition will also feature newly painted video projections, which have allowed Lahart to realize large-scale versions of the TV's. Lahart stumbled across the motif of the television and found it perfectly suited his needs. He elucidates:

*...It addressed an outstanding issue I had with the 'framing of painting'. I was always uncomfortable with traditional decorative framing devices. I don't like the way they rigidly limited and restricted a painting's composition and context, into formal polite niceties. They cramped my style \_ or lack of. The discovery of the TV motif also allowed me to pursue a different range of subject matter; mini one frame narratives dealing with socio political issues, the mediated image, art/film/television history, and personal feelings. The TV frame is like glue it'll take anything you throw at it. I can get away with compositions that would look daft in a conventional rectangular picture plane. The TV is the ultimate contemporary frame and is also (kind of) on the wane. It's how we receive and consume most of our mediated images. We can travel the world watching the TV from the comfort of our homes. (From Disasters of the Armchair Series, Nevan Lahart.)*

Nevan Lahart received his MA in 2003 and his BA in 2000 from the National College of Art and Design, Dublin where he is currently a part-time lecturer in the painting department. He has exhibited in: Draíocht, Blanchardstown, Dublin; Éigse, Carlow; EV+A, Limerick; and the Kilkenny Arts Festival in 2006; The Goethe Institute, Dublin; the Eurojet Futures in 2004/05 at the RHA, Dublin. In 2005, he completed a residency and exhibited in the Process Room in the Irish Museum of Modern Art. He was awarded Arts Council Bursary Awards in 2005 and 2006. His work is represented in the Bank of Ireland Collection and in private collections in Ireland and abroad.

[www.nevanlahart.com](http://www.nevanlahart.com)

ADMISSION FREE

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