

DARKER

DARKER brings together a collective of six artists, each pushing boundaries to explore the subconscious and the provocative. Working across mediums such as paint, print, 3D sculpture, collage, film, and music, the group channels a fusion of Pop Art, Surrealism, agit-prop, and the avant-garde to create a visceral and electric atmosphere in the setting of a beautiful Regency-era townhouse.

Artists

MAXINE ALLAN

Maxine Allan graduated from the San Francisco Art Institute, USA, in 1988 with a Bachelor's in Fine Art, majoring in Sculpture. She worked as an art director and scenic artist while exhibiting in galleries in California and New York. In 1992, Allan returned to the UK, where her continued fascination with art and the unconscious mind earned her a Master's in Art Therapy. In 2003, Allan founded Artyfacts Art Academy, an inspirational art programme that allows local children to explore their individuality and self-expression through art. Allan's work is a vestige, a trace or remnant of something disappearing or no longer existing. Her layering and use of found objects are like modern fossils - trophies from the past - where Surrealist conversations happen between the objects.

www.maxineallan.com

BILLY CHAINSAW

Billy Chainsaw is a contemporary Pop Artist whose work uses a mix of pulp and the arcane to engage with ideas of mortality, magick, and sensuality. Working with paints, screen prints, photographs, ceramics, and decals, Chainsaw has developed a personal armoury of imagery and gestural approaches that are instantly recognisable yet open to infinite experimentation. Chainsaw's previous work has been exhibited in numerous highly regarded galleries, such as London's Saatchi Gallery, The Horse Hospital, and Fleetwood Gallery in San Francisco. He has also designed an album sleeve for indie superstars The Fall, as well as operating as a film critic and cultural commentator, writing for publications as diverse as Empire, Bizarre, and Kerrang.

www.koolkrakenincorporated.com

GIRL SHIT

GIRL SHIT is a multi-disciplinary artist whose work explores propaganda, subcultures, and female narratives, often referencing art history and DIY cultures. There is a fascination in the work with rituals, magick, cinema, and vintage imagery collected since childhood. Bailey has a BA (Hons) in Fine Art (sculpture) and exhibits regularly, with work owned both nationally and internationally. She has been long-listed and shortlisted for art prizes, including the Women in Art Prize and VAA.

www.instagram.com/girlshitgirl

GAVIN JAY

Gavin Jay studied fine art at Kingston University before picking up the bass guitar and touring the world with the Jim Jones Revue. He kept his hand in with the visual arts, designing album covers and tour posters. In recent years, he has returned to focusing on his fine art practice while continuing to perform and record music. Influenced by figures such as Max Ernst and Joseph Cornell, filtered through Pop Art, Victoriana, the occult, pulp sci-fi, antique toy theatres, and anatomical models, Jay brings a unique approach to his surrealist collages. Drawing on a wealth of esoteric imagery harvested from libraries around the world, his work is both nostalgic and quietly disturbing, conjuring scenes from impossible narratives that exist suspended in Lynchian dream spaces. Jay has participated in various group shows in London and Brighton, and in 2019 had his first solo exhibition at HOK Gallery in Den Haag, Netherlands. His work can also be found at L'Oeil Ouvert Gallery in Paris, France.

monodada.com

ROB RINN

Rob Rinn studied at Gray's School of Art, Aberdeen. He has exhibited in various group shows at the Scottish National Gallery (Edinburgh), Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum (Glasgow), Intermedia Gallery (Glasgow), Mall Galleries (London), and Cabinet Gallery (London). For this exhibition, Rinn has sought to resolve a series of pictures he started, and put on hold, some time ago. Taken directly from an out-of-print book on WWII, the pictures combine black-and-white photo cut-outs with black-and-white acrylic paint. Rinn was influenced by Bob Dylan's "Masters of War," Stanley Kubrick's "Dr. Strangelove," late Samuel Beckett, Terry Gilliam's Python collages, and the allegory of "Plato's Cave."

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MAL TROON

Mal Troon is a professional musician, sound artist, lecturer and writer who explores sonic and auditory cultures. Through his newly designed umbrella concept called 'Sound Tenses,' he seeks to excavate and organise notions of auditory permanence, permanences that challenge traditional tropes of sounds as confined to ephemerally brief timescales. Through reorganizing and manipulating existing and original visual film material, combined with his own original sonic compositions, Troon investigates sound's positioning when integrated into such an approach. Can auditory permanences be found in our sonic retentions that we bring to the 'viewing' experience? How might they be layered onto our understanding of that view? Under the umbrella of sound tenses these notions unveil a new form of diegesis: an 'antecedent diegesis.' As such, we transport our stored 'past sound tense' sonic experiences collected prior, and apply them contingently to understand future sound tense experiences.

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