

POLLY MORGAN

'BURIALS'



June 3 – July 22 2011

Opening reception Friday, June 3, 2011

6-9 pm

Workshop Arte Contemporanea is pleased to announce the opening of **'Burials'**, the first solo exhibition by the London-based artist, **Polly Morgan**, in Italy.

Described by Charlotte Philby in *The Independent* as 'Britart's hottest property', Polly Morgan is at the very forefront of modern taxidermy. She has contributed to a shift in public perception that has taken 'the art of preparing, stuffing and mounting the skins of animals with lifelike effect' to places never dreamed of by its original Victorian practitioners.

The vitrines are still there but little else remains. Birds are taken out of their natural habitat and are reassembled, often in mass, creating sculptures of astonishing and often disquieting beauty.

For **'Psychopomps'** at Haunch of Venison last year, this theme of disintegration and recomposition was keenly explored. **'Burials'** takes this idea to its

logical end, interment and then potential rebirth elsewhere. 'The coffin' (*Carrion Call*), with its shrieking chicks, makes a welcome return, this time transported to the dimly-lit backroom of a Venetian palazzo; Count Dracula's transportation of his own coffins from Transylvania to Carfax Abbey in London, performs an almost perfect reverse. A sense of imprisonment and the futility of escape dominates this exhibition, escape is actually, both metaphorically and physically, an unlikely possibility.

Three new-style works adorn the walls, in the shapes of a spade, a coffin-lid and a headstone respectively. Other large-scale pieces that further celebrate the themes of rebirth and spring are also included in the form of an ancient (much twisted) maypole and a scorched flying machine held aloft by flame-orange finches and canaries.

Workshop Arte Contemporanea would like to thank The British Council and Bisol Desiderio & Figli for their support of this exhibition.

Polly Morgan was born in England in 1980 and lives and works in London. She had an unconventional upbringing, raised in the country with goats, llamas, hens, hamsters and other popular domesticated animals, but only discovered taxidermy some years after coming to live in London at 18. In 2005 she studied the art under George Jamieson and has subsequently forged a personal art practice founded on its technical conventions. Her work is shown internationally and recent exhibitions have included 'Psychopomps' (solo) at Haunch of Venison, 2010, 'Still Birth' (solo) at Other Criteria 2010, 'Contemporary Eye: Crossover,' Pallant

House Gallery, 2010, 'Hell's Half Acre', Tunnel 228, London, 2010, 'Vanitas: The Transience of Earthly Pleasures', All Visual Arts, London, 2010, 'Mythologies', Haunch of Venison, London, 2009, 'You Dig the Tunnel, I'll Hide the Soil', White Cube, London, 2008 'The Exquisite Corpse: A Reconstruction Project', at 1 Marylebone Road, London and 'Still Life After Death' at Kristy Stubbs Gallery, Dallas, both 2007. Her work features in numerous collections including the Thomas Olbricht Collection, the Anita Zabłudowicz Collection and the David Roberts Art Foundation.

Workshop Arte Contemporanea

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