

Blog	Exhibitions	Artists	Inventory	Prints	Press	About
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Dreamgirls & Ukes

New works by Amy Crehore
www.amycrehore.com

Opening Reception: Friday, Feb. 13th 7-11PM

On View: Feb. 13th – Mar. 6th, 2009

(Los Angeles, CA) Thinkspace Gallery is proud to present Dreamgirls & Ukes, the debut Los Angeles solo show from Portland based artist Amy Crehore. This exhibition will feature new paintings on both linen and antique ukuleles as well as an installation and a special performance. In addition to Dreamgirls & Ukes, we will also be presenting the debut solo show from local artist Anthony Clarkson.

Dreamgirls & Ukes from Amy Crehore:

Amy Crehore's solo exhibit will feature a new series of oil paintings of playful, iconic nudes and will introduce some new characters (in addition to her well known cats, pierrots and monkeys): a lion, a tortoise, and large flying insects. Ukuleles will play a role in these new narratives, giving the works musical ambience. Some of these dream sequences will take place in nature, others in curtained rooms.

Crehore has also painted over a dozen antique ukuleles as part of this special exhibit. Most of these instruments are from the American ukulele boom of the 1920's. Crehore personally hand-picked a collection that represents a variety of styles and designs including banjo ukes, mahogany and koa ukes, as well as art deco novelty ukes. On these ukes, she will incorporate motifs from her paintings, plus she will be adding creative type and logo design. Crehore's long-time music partner, Lou Reimuller, is also a luthier and he has lovingly restored each of these instruments. These ukes are all "players" as well as fine art objects.

In addition, Crehore's band, The Hokum Scorchers (duo), will be giving a rare musical performance during the opening night reception of blues, rags and jug band songs from the 20's and 30's. We have performed in the past at the Seattle Folk Festival, Bumbershoot and other northwest venues. We started the "Tickler" fine art ukulele company in 2007 (hand-built ukes) and the vintage ukuleles in this show will be called "Tickleroo's".

AMY CREHORE bio:

Amy Crehore was born in the mountains of Virginia. She spent her childhood in the suburbs of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, but returned to Virginia to earn her BFA at Virginia Commonwealth University. There she studied filmmaking, animation, photography and design. After college, she began to teach herself to paint with oils while earning a living as a graphic artist. It wasn't long before her paintings were included in prestigious shows at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Portland Art Museum. Playboy and Esquire took notice of her talents in 1991 and commissioned her for magazine spreads. Her double portrait of Jewel and Alanis Morissette is included in "Rolling Stone: The Illustrated Portraits" (Chronicle Books, 2000).

In 2005, Amy Crehore made a splash with her playfully surreal, yet sensual, "Monkey Love" paintings at the first of two "Blab!" art shows in Santa Monica, CA. The following year, her "Blues Gal" series debuted in the second "Blab!" show and she also exhibited her award-winning "Little Pierrot" series at Applegate Gallery. Crehore has been booked up ever since, showing her work at Roq La Rue (Seattle, WA), M Modern Gallery (Palm Springs, CA & Las Vegas, NV), Corey Helford Gallery (Culver City, CA.), Ad Hoc Art (Brooklyn, NY), Robert Berman Gallery (Santa Monica, CA.) as well as at Mark Murphy's KNOW exhibits during Art Basel in Miami, FL during 2007 and 2008. Crehore also took part in the Gen Art Vanguard New Contemporary Art Fair in Dec, 2008 at Art Basel, Miami with Thinkspace (Los Angeles).

Amy Crehore has lived on the west coast in Eugene, Oregon for the past 20 years. Artist website: <http://www.amycrehore.com/>

Artist blog: <http://amycrehore.blogspot.com/>

Checkout a recent interview here: <http://sadiemagazine.com>

Sneak Peek of Dreamgirls & Ukes: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/thinkspace/sets/72157611312085669/>

Also opening on Fri, February 13th in our project room:

The Silent Treatment from Anthony Clarkson:

The art of Anthony Clarkson is a portal into child-like innocence, mixed with troubled spirits, broken hearts and a sense of emptiness. When Clarkson graduated from the Colorado Institute of Art in 2002, he was resolute in his decision to make a living as a graphic artist in the music industry. He was hired as the head graphic designer for a prominent record label in Los Angeles shortly thereafter. Embracing a vibrantly hyper realistic digital photo-manipulation technique, his first published album cover followed shortly after joining their ranks and quickly established a long list of published album covers for several bands on various labels.

Inspired by the continuously evolving Los Angeles new contemporary art scene and growing weary with digital art, Clarkson began to revisit the drawing style of his youth, mixed with the feelings and dark emotions he has dealt with throughout his adult life. In late 2005 he was given the chance to be in his first group show at Thinkspace in Los Angeles, thus providing the perfect opportunity to begin showcasing a completely new direction in his artistic style.

Clarkson's art has been showcased in several galleries in the United States including Thinkspace, DvA Gallery, Gallery 1988, Cannibal Flower and Copro/Nason. Exhibitions of note include special curated exhibitions that were dedicated to Mattel/Hot Wheels, Marvel Comics (hosted by Stan Lee) and Crazy for Cult 2 (hosted by Kevin Smith). Clarkson was also featured in the 'Intersections' show at the Cypress College that took place during the spring of 2008.

In addition to a growing following on the gallery circuit, Clarkson is also one of 100 artists that has been tapped by vinyl toy juggernaut MindStyle to participate in Experiment 626, a crossover tour in conjunction with Disney. Each artist was sent a blank 10-inch vinyl figure of Stitch from Disney's Lilo & Stitch movie to customize. These custom art pieces will tour the globe. The traveling exhibition will end in November 2009 in Hawaii. Past that, be on the lookout for additional action in the vinyl toy market from Clarkson as we enter into 2010 and beyond.

Clarkson's vision continues to expand as his paintings evolve into more intense expressions of his own dark thoughts.

Artist website: <http://www.anthonyclarksonart.com/>

Sneak Peek at The Silent Treatment: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/thinkspace/sets/72157611386044428/>

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