

EXHIBITION

mardi gras visual arts exhibition 2000

Until Sun, Gallery Westland Place, 13 Westland Place N1, Tue to Fri 10am to 6pm, Sun noon to 5pm, free.

Tel: 020 7251 6456.

Website:

www.londonmardigras.com

Tube: Old Street

As part of the fortnight-long festival devoted to queer culture, this is a celebration of work by artists with a gay sensibility, whether it be provocative, ironic or self-reflective.

Guy Reid's sculpture, *Facing the Bogie Man*, consists of two carved naked men, holding hands, each standing on the edge of a plank. The point may not be subtle, but there is something quite powerful reflected in the solidity of the material and the solidarity of the image.

In complete contrast, Veronica Slater's oil and mixed media canvas, *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane*, draws on nostalgia and whimsy for a time when glamour meant a froth of organza and frills floating around a ballroom.

Boldest, perhaps, is Barrett and Forster's photograph *Untitled (Rectal Cast)*, a gloriously glittery nugget with the contours of that orifice etched on its surface, floating in a blood red background. Meanwhile, wit is provided by CheekiMunki Productions' moustachioed dykes lying in bed, reading the papers. Maggie Hambling's trademark curly brushstrokes are in evidence once more in her poignant,



screenprinted portrait of the late Derek Jarman, suitably bathed in blue, and in Sadie Lee's *Pinky*, a big woman in her smalls stares at the viewer, daring us to comment.

Much of the exhibition is up for sale, with prices ranging from £110 to £23,500, and tonight a private view including an auction of some works will be held by Christie's, following a presentation on each artist by critics. To attend this evening's event, call Kate Parker on 020 7721 8687.

Fiona Morrow