



TENDERPIXEL GALLERY

AN INNOVATIVE EXHIBITION SPACE FOR EMERGING ARTISTS

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PRESS RELEASE

Are you sitting comfortably?

New work by **SALLY SPINKS**

PRIVATE VIEW: APRIL 30TH FROM 6-9PM
EXHIBITION: APRIL 30TH – MAY 18TH

The desire to feel comfortable is human. The achievement of comfort in what we do and how we perform has a down side. It can reduce our motivation levels and make us less focussed, with disastrous results.

-American Business Writer, Larry Bitner, 2007

Tenderpixel presents a trio of new pieces by artist Sally Spinks. ***Are you sitting comfortably?*** explores the notion of comfort zones and highlights the potential danger of stagnating oblivion that lurks behind such soothing complacency.

In ***Protect us from what we want*** Spinks' acrylic and hand linked chain mail mats serve as signifiers of control. For Spinks, controls are sought in many areas of life to bring order and perceived freedom in a chaotic post-modern world. Spinks wonders what price society pays for such restrictive measures, and how much freedom must be sacrificed in the process. ***Still Burning*** a work produced by Spinks in reaction to the implementation of the smoking ban in London: hundreds of cigarette butts discarded, a sight familiar to anyone living in the city, yet upon closer inspection it becomes clear that each one was painstakingly hand knitted. This realization transforms used cigarettes, items that are normally discarded and dirty, into objects that are adorable, even collectible. It is here that desire becomes expressed as comfort; an addictive deadly vice is reduced to a cuddly consequence. The trio of work culminates in the piece ***Fine Line*** a work where gigantic human size cigarettes invade the gallery space acting as shamans, warning of what occurs when one remains permanently fixed in their comfort zone.

Sally Spinks is a recent Masters Graduate of Goldsmiths, University of London (2008) and her practice is dedicated to issues of control and consumerism and their impact on the changing nature of Britain's class system. She has over twenty years experience working for media organisations including the BBC. She works as a consultant in the field of learning design focussing on the areas of creativity, leadership development and executive coaching.