

PRESS RELEASE:
ANNIE MORRIS: WHEN A HAPPY THING FALLS
6th SEPTEMBER – 6th OCTOBER 2007

ALLSOPP CONTEMPORARY's is pleased to announce its forthcoming exhibition for the emerging LA based British artist, **Annie Morris**, and will be held in conjunction with Jeannie Freilich Fine Art, New York*.



Annie Morris (b.1978)

Self Portrait, 2007

Painted clothes peg on metal lathing, wood paint and India ink on canvas
138.5 x 184 x 12.5cm



For this show, Morris has created a series of paintings, sculptures and new tapestries using the common wooden clothes peg as raw material. In the tapestries (see *Self Portrait*, 2007) pegs are collaged to the canvas with other found objects. Wall reliefs consist entirely of row upon row of pegs, each inscribed with nude self portraits and swathed with colour. In the sculptures, the pegs are arranged like the feathered coat of a bird to convey impressions of strange avian creatures which lie dead or sleeping. The ideas for the sculptures have evolved from collaboration with Burberry last year, in which Morris played on the suggestive association of the clothes peg transforming them into thick weaves of flowing fabric, billowing across the floor.

In her work, Morris uses the simplest tools with skill and craft to make striking and conceptually challenging images. There is an obsessive quality to her earlier pen and ink drawings - meticulously detailed landscapes of the mind made spontaneously on postcards and hung together like a patchwork. In them she displays a debt to Paul Klee and Louise Bourgeois. But the content is drawn from the joys and anxieties that haunt her imagination.

In the same way, the compulsive repetition of the clothes peg also makes reference to the Outsider artists. Ironically, Morris is very much an 'insider', having been through formal training at art schools in Paris and London. This has enabled her to adapt to a variety of different media: plaster paintings, ceramics and glass sculpture, as well as found objects. What permeates the work is a lonely questioning spirit which is both angst-ridden and life-affirming

Annie Morris (British, b.1978,) trained at the Ecole de Beaux Arts (1999 - 2002), Paris and the Slade School (2002 - 2003), London. She has had solo shows in London with Laura Bartlett Gallery and Thomas Williams Fine Art (both 2005) and in Los Angeles with Light Box (2006). Recent group Exhibitions include, Jeannie Freilich Fine Art, New York. She lives and works in Los Angeles.

Private view: Wednesday 5th September, 6:30 - 9:00pm

For press information, images, a catalogue or to arrange an interview, please contact **Sophie Money**, +44(0) 207 801 9421, 0787 6402544 or smoney@moneyplusart.com

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Next Show: Julian Berthier, 12th October - 18th November 2007

*Jeannie Freilich has recently opened her own gallery having worked for fifteen years as a director of the Marian Goodman gallery in New York