



PRESS RELEASE:  
Nicolas Pol: Life Goes On If You're Lucky  
Paintings, Drawings, Sculpture

22<sup>nd</sup> October – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2005

Allsopp Contemporary is proud to present Nicolas Pol's first solo show Life Goes On If You're Lucky. Including recent paintings, drawings and sculpture the show represents the largest and most exciting body of work by the young French artist to date.

Nicolas Pol is deeply fascinated with scientific developments and their effect on society. Whilst we are constantly inundated with the latest discovery it is sometimes hard to accept each new 'truth' as information overload pushes our acceptance of fact to breaking point. He has taken one such discovery as the basis for much of the work in this show. Toying with the fictional 'Swisson Sticks', 'Paizer Machine' and the very real possibility of the inversion of the world's magnetic pole, the works function as both a parody and a warning against complacency (in all its varied forms) within our society.

Underneath the layers of applied paint and looming figures one can decipher semi-fantastical diagrams and explanations surrounding his various inventions. In pseudo-scientific manner Nicolas has created the ultimate in bio-chemical apparatus able to dispense "electro-solids", "neutronic spices" and "new magnetic codes" to cope with the potentially catastrophic inversion. Both obscuring and accentuating these elements is a painterly awareness that draws on a host of influences whilst offering an aesthetic that is unique, complex and assured in its depth.

It is within this interplay between fact, fiction and acute aesthetic awareness that Nicolas Pol reveals himself as a painter of exceptional talent and promise. He readily accepts that in our cynical and impact-based society his images must have the power to seduce and entice the viewer. Hence we see paint applied with the touch of an artist fully in control of his medium, offsetting acrylic with enamel, diagrammatic screen-printing with long gestural passages of paint. Equally, he takes on his medium, refusing to accept that paintings own discoveries have all been made. His canvasses smack of invention and inspiration – these are paintings that propel themselves off the wall with their large format, bold colours and unique subject matter.

Also on display in Life Goes On If you're Lucky will be a selection of reliefs, collages and drawings by the artist. Epitomising the scientific, research-based approach we see much of the preparatory stages of his work as elements and motifs are picked up and carried forward to the larger canvases. The works on paper also reveal Pol's eclectic use of sources and material. Seemingly disparate elements are thrown together to produce a fusion of personal thought, creative influence and expressive potential. This selection of paintings, drawings and sculpture serves as a landmark for this young French painter.

In 2004 Nicolas Pol graduated from the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris. He lives and works in Paris.