

Layer Cake

Phillip Allen, Neil Gall, Vincent Hawkins, Roger Kelly, Bob Matthews, Andrea Medjesi-Jones, Jost Münster

**curated by Roger Kelly
with a text in catalogue of Martin Holman**

**Opening Saturday 29 September, 6 pm
29 September – 10 November 2007**

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Tuesday - Saturday 10.30 am – 1 pm / 4 pm – 8 pm**

This exhibition examines some of the brightest emerging talents of painting currently at work in London, and their working processes – how painting emerges from varied but overlapping individual practices.

Rather like the concept of a Layer Cake, the artists included in the exhibition almost physically build their paintings up in layers, using a variety of ingredients, methods and materials, to create something more than the sum of its parts. Those who have had experience of the city are well aware that it is difficult to penetrate the artistic atmosphere that one breathes in London. Visiting London galleries, in fact, may not be enough to understand what is going on in the cultural underground of a city that has always hosted thousands of artists from all over the world, among whom we often find the hidden talents of tomorrow. In this way London, along with New York and Berlin, has gained a leading position at the forefront of artistic trends. The seven artists on display have spent much of their lives in the highly stimulating environment of London, despite having origins beyond the city and indeed, in some cases, beyond the UK. All studied in the leading art-schools and many now lecture and contribute to the critical art environment. Several of them have won prestigious prizes and work with fashionable galleries. This exhibition hopes to reveal not only some of the emerging talents currently at work in London, but also their working processes – and the points at which each artist's practice overlaps. This is a very London-centric exhibition, in that it has been devised and coordinated by a London artist, is accompanied by a new text by a London based intellectual, and the catalogue was designed in London along a very rigorous and traditional graphic format. So if a trip to London is not sufficient to understand what's going on under the surface and especially to ascertain the current direction of British painting, perhaps this exhibition will provide the perfect insight into contemporary painting practice.

Phillip Allen, Neil Gall, Vincent Hawkins, Roger Kelly, Bob Matthews, Andrea Medjesi-Jones and Jost Münster will be present at the opening and will each exhibit a new painting and three preliminary works.