

Eastside Projects

# Rafal Zar

START art fair, Saatchi Gallery, London  
26 – 29 June 2014

For the inaugural START art fair at the Saatchi Gallery, London from 26 – 29 June 2014 Division of Labour and Eastside Projects show a joint presentation of new work with an Eastern European focus.

Rafal Zar's paintings wield a cartoonlike dark humour. Themes of religion, sexuality, race, violence, oppression and unrequited love constantly loop in his work. Queer characters (priests, Madonnas, water melons, bunnies, pigs, donkeys, turds and butt plugs) perform picaresque journeys through landscapes, often empty except for an abstracted horizon line. The echo of twentieth century European histories and the suppression of the other permeate Zar's mundane-magical paintings. Taking the position of the outsider Zar combines religious, natural, scatological and sexual imagery in joyously bleak paintings.

Zar was born in Poland during Martial Law in 1981. He has been based in the West Midlands since 2006. In September 2014 he will present a solo show of new work at Eastside Projects for the annual ESP Members Show.

Eastside Projects makes art public. We are an internationally renowned centre of excellence based in a free public gallery that is being imagined and organized by artists. We commission, produce and present experimental art practices and demonstrate ways in which art may be useful as part of society. Eastside Projects is a questioning structure that in turn produces more questions and also, of course, possible answers. Our ambition is to incorporate the methodologies of art-making at all scales and functions of the organisation. Since 2008 Eastside Projects has presented exhibitions by artists including: Sara Barker, Alice Channer, Cao Fei, Liam Gillick, Dan Graham, Mike Nelson, Jennifer Tee and Yangjiang Group.

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