

ANTHONY REYNOLDS GALLERY

60 GREAT MARLBOROUGH STREET
LONDON
W1F 7BG

TELEPHONE +44 20 7 439 2201
FAX +44 20 7 439 1869
EMAIL INFO@ANTHONYREYNOLDS.COM

PRESS RELEASE



AMIKAM TOREN CARROTS

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Six stories, strangely moving tales touched with humour, edged with the surreal. Six true stories, narratives of experience from the artist's life, selected from a period of 40 years. The precision of observation and the almost casual, natural humanity are arresting but, while the narratives themselves are deeply affecting, their form as voice-overs to fixed camera films of the scene of their occurrence has a powerful impact on our perception of location. Background and foreground, setting and story, softly change places as our listening and viewing shift as impulses to imagination. Six short tales assembled into a seventeen minute anthology of acute reflection.

An old, injured wooden clothes horse is helped to maintain its function through the insertion of an elaborate steel 'crutch'. Healed and restored to dignified purpose, this re-awakened object has a lop-sided beauty and a strength surpassing its original state.

Arriving at the end of a sketch book, the last drawing is torn off the pad leaving just the covers and the spiral binding. From this material is fashioned another, final last drawing. As each sketch book reaches its conclusion, a further last drawing is excised from its bones. There will always be more last drawings.

In Toren's work the most elemental form or mundane object has its very material redeployed to suck out hidden meaning. It's an alchemical process: a little assistance, a redistribution of resources, is all that is required to reveal the energy and significance contained within dull matter. Object, sign, experience, each and every casually accepted, and more often discarded, mundanity is open to challenge, transformation and adjustment, teasing out truths beyond its basic nature. In this exhibition, short deadpan videos and an old domestic item are revealed as harbingers of formal and fanciful delight.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND IMAGES PLEASE CONTACT MARIA STATHI AT THE GALLERY
EMAIL: MARIA@ANTHONYREYNOLDS.COM TEL +44 20 7439 2201 FAX +44 20 7 439 1869