

DOMOBAAL

REBECCA GELDARD'S TOP 10 LONDON SHOWS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2010



Ansel Krut

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Modern Art
15 January - 13 March

I discovered Ansel Krut's absurdly figurative practice at Domo Baal gallery, London. Back then he was showing a series of immediately produced gouache works on paper: a seriously strange set of narrative propositions on the human condition at complete odds with the sophistication of their manufacture. 'Toonish sausage, carrot and harlequin people often display a primeval level of interest in their own and each others' bodies and predicaments, yet can also appear to be operating at the behest of a subconscious directive. This cast of not-quite sentient creatures have evolved over time from characters in a scene to structural facets of the scenography - spun, shattered and rolled out into a set of chromatically complex motifs borrowed from a variety of art historical sources. In the new works, for his first solo show at Modern Art, Krut appears to have animated elements of still lifes - onions, bottles, flowers and other enduring motifs of twentieth century European painting - as if they were portrait subjects with contrary histories to be told.