

Richard Monahan

5 March – 16 April 2011



To compliment the **Jerwood Drawing Prize**, currently showing at **Oriel Myrddin Gallery**, **Richard Monahan's** self portraits are the latest in the *Back Wall* series of work, featuring Welsh artists in the gallery retail area.

Based in Swansea, Richard trained at Camberwell College of Art in London, gaining his BA (first class) degree at Swansea Institute; he studied for a PhD in Drawing in 2007.

Richard says of his work:

"I started drawing self-portraits in 2003 as a way of re-directing my thoughts from my principal practice as an artist.

Over the course of a year the portraits began to change, at first representational, they became less so as a boredom threshold began to be reached.

As the portraits became less like myself in appearance I began to use them as structures within which I could present ideas, to challenge what I had come to expect of art and what I was trying to achieve through it.

I began to add another layer to the portraits, a sort of primordial swamp as a counterpoint to philosophy - to highlight that in the face of civilisation, whilst we struggle for meaning we remain creatures of this world."

Free admission/Mynediad am ddim

Ends

Photography credits: Richard Monohan

High res images of *Portrait with circle II* available

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10 – 5 Monday – Saturday/Dydd Llun – Dydd Sadwrn

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Oriel Myrddin Gallery celebrates its 20th birthday in 2011!

In 1991 Oriel Myrddin Gallery was established with commitment from the local authority and the Welsh Arts Council. Since that time it has flourished, with an impressive range of exhibitions, art education activity as well as a lovely gallery shop, which supports many of Wales' most prestigious craft makers.

It had seemed that the beautiful listed building might be demolished. Fortunately a groundswell of local support and artist lobbying secured a reprieve and a reincarnation occurred ... from Art School to Art Gallery.

The building was designed as Carmarthen's Art School by George Morgan, a celebrated local architect. It was completed in 1891 and opened its doors in 1892. It has been central to the artistic lifeblood of the town since that time.

We hope you will continue to treasure the building and support the gallery.

Oriel Myrddin yn dathlu ei phen-blwydd yn ugain oed yn 2011!

Sefydlwyd Oriel Myrddin ym 1991 yn sgil cael ymrwymiad gan yr awdurdod lleol a chan Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru. Yn y cyfamser mae'r Oriel wedi mynd o nerth i nerth – gan gynnal amrywiaeth arbennig o arddangosfeydd ochr yn ochr â gweithgareddau celf i ysgolion, yn ogystal â bod yn gartref i siop ddymunol dros ben sy'n gwerthu gwaith llawer o grefftwyr gorau Cymru. Ar un adeg yr oedd posibilrwydd y gallai'r adeilad rhestredig hynod brydferth gael ei ddymchwel. Yn ffodus, yn sgil cefnogaeth leol law yn llaw ag ymgyrch gan artistiaid, llwyddwyd i achub yr adeilad a'i weddnewid ... gan droi'r Ysgol Gelf yn Oriel Gelf. George Morgan, pensaer lleol uchel ei barch, a ddyluniodd yr adeilad gwreiddiol a hynny i fod yn gartref i Ysgol Gelf Caerfyrddin. Cwblhawyd yr adeilad ym 1891 a derbyniwyd y myfyrwyr cyntaf ym 1892. Ac mae'r adeilad wedi bod yn rhan annatod o fywyd celfyddydol y dref byth oddi ar hynny. Ein gobaith yw y byddwch yn dal i drysori'r adeilad ac igefnogi'r oriel.