

LONDON - BRUTAL

Lazarides gallery & The Vinyl Factory
180 The Strand - WC2R 1EA

Oct. 15 - 27

what does "brutal" mean to you ?



"Child Slavery" / brutal series - double handcuffs - 37x17x0.9cm - 2013

Katrin Fridriks explores four important perspectives of our society through the topic "Brutal" and of its underlying violence. Extremely contemporary, Katrin's works distil an uncompromising view on our time. Playing with media, size and techniques, making these elements part of the creation and an echo to the exhibition space, Katrin uses very explicit titles for her pieces. She is presenting two series of paintings and two minimalist conceptual works highlighting her consideration about Art as food for thoughts.

The minimalist installation entitled "child slavery" reflects the cold reality of **human trafficking & child labour** around the world. Despite all laws that have been settled to protect children, the exploitation persists in the society, from the most innocent forms to the hardest ones.

Aren't we turning a blind eye ?

The sculpture “**Illegal Cloning**” - massacre culturel created in 2011, is a metaphor of the life distortion and refers to treatments & genetic modifications that animals endure, particularly in the food industry.

The reversed animal skull is presented on an upside-down trophy, the closer we look at its clean appearance, we realise it is not normal.



“Illegal Cloning” massacre culturel / molecular spaces series - reversed animal skull - 60x77x35cm - 2011

Behind the mask of scientific progress, life acceleration & population growth, food industries are feeding the world or starving it, according to their own rules : transforming the bases of life, infecting population from the inside and imposing their **way of consuming**. “Illegal Cloning” reminds us of breeding farm scandals that occur last decades and making the sculpture very topical. As sharpened as its horns, the message is as violent as the reality.

Isn't that curious, despite the development of food-processing industry, parts of the genetic engineering and pharmaceutical industries are among the most moneymaking economic activities !

As a living and **precious information**, the genetic code of some populations has been registered by pharmaceutical & insurance companies, adding to “health record’s”, to grant life insurances contracts.



macro of “Gene&Ethics” / molecular spaces series - acrylic on canvas - 180x280cm +10cm - 2013

Those companies pursue the development of databases in creating genetic profiles, even classifying its people codes as “good or bad”. Such databases may allow to understand if an individual could develop in near future certain kinds of health problems/diseases. Do insurance companies have the right to classify their citizens, by defining their potential risks through economical & financial stakes ?

“Gene&Ethics” painting puts a light on the political & human aspects for future generations in discussing the **genetic classification** of today’s society.



Exclusively presented for “Brutal”, the first & largest canvas : 180x280cm ever made by Katrin, belongs to the “molecular spaces” series.

a happy pill to digest ?



"Happy pill" / brutal pills series - acrylic on canvas - D100cm +6cm - 2013

From a macroscopic size to a full blown-up of one-meter size, the three round-shape paintings of the "Brutal pills" series are like a zoom effect. The colourful drippings and waves created by Fridriks' gesture are part of her new technical process.

Firstly taken to cure, they are often misused & overprescribed, underestimating the danger of side effects, sometimes leading to disorientation, diseases, mood disorders, even addiction.



Fridriks workshop - brutal pills series - 2013

BRUTAL GROUP SHOW : from Oct. 15 to 27 at 180 The Strand - London

**Antony MICALLEF / Ben WOODESON / Brad DOWNEY / Bill MCRIGHT / Cleon PETERSON / DALEAST / Doug FOSTER /
Estevan ORIOL / James LAVELLE / Katrin FRIDRIKS / Karim ZERIAHEN / KNOW HOPE / Lucy MCLAUCHLAN /
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