

For immediate release

SHANE HASSETT

Paperboy

5 May - 7 June 2000

Private view: Friday 5 May 2000, 6:30 - 9:30

South London Holding Company is pleased to announce the first UK solo exhibition of Shane Hassett.

Shane Hassett has developed an outstanding body of work over the past two years. Comprised of six separate components, *The Paperboy Project* employs the artist's recollections of adolescent work experiences as a starting point to comment upon print media and its various degrees of impact on individual development and memory. Included in the exhibition are drawings, two series of photographs, a video and one editioned text.

Evidence of the artist's concern with selective aspects of memory is present throughout the exhibition. In *Circulation*, the artist attempts to recall homes to which, as a child, he delivered newspapers. These 31 drawings can be seen as constructions which have arisen from obliterated memories; the intensely worked surfaces of graphite on paper giving form to incomplete memory. This solemn and intelligent investigation of retrospection assigns the enigmatic format of the silhouette to depict a once detailed assemblage of visual information.

Two series of photographs, *Delivery* and *Mutual Understanding*, have developed from concern about the manner in which information is transferred, the effects the method of transference has upon actual reception of content and the automatic process of reading information but not necessarily absorbing or digesting it. In *Delivery*, this inquiry into the actual delivery and interpretation of content has developed from the logic of humor; the artist citing it is not the actual content of the joke but how you tell it. Exemplified are the numerous methods which may or may not effect the reception of an avid newspaper reader. Associated with these images is the series *Mutual Understanding*, which depicts the paperboy in numerous situations scouring the broadsheet for information. Underpinning this series is the battle of objective versus subjective comprehension and interpretation which in turn considers the reality of cultural fluency being undermined by the detachment of cultural literacy.

Paperboy, a looped video, focuses on a representation of the adolescent as a grown, modern-day city-dweller; living in isolation with a generic identity, learning by second-hand information via the newspaper. Connecting the fears and frustrations of the paperboy with the archetypal isuiti, Hassett has constructed a scenario rich in metaphor. Exposing anxieties rooted in the subconscious of Western society, he has captured aspects of repetition and monotony which are present throughout our modern culture.

Initially conceived as a large series of hand-written texts, *Learning to Letter* has been condensed into a book format and published by the South London Holding Company as an editioned work. Comprised of seventy texts from the *Learning to Letter* series, each passage reiterates one line which has been appropriated from the Los Angeles Times over the past year. The sentences, which have been reproduced verbatim, including spelling, grammatical and punctuation errors, focus on the darkness and depravity offered in the media. Again, issues of subjective and objective understanding of content arise; here focusing on the comprehension that youth may have of the text and considering the possible consequences that may arise.

Shane Hassett lives and works in London. Portions of *Paperboy* will also be exhibited at Art in General, New York in September. For further details or images, please call Thomas Rugani at 0171 277 5611. Gallery hours are Saturday - Sunday, 11am-6pm and by appointment.