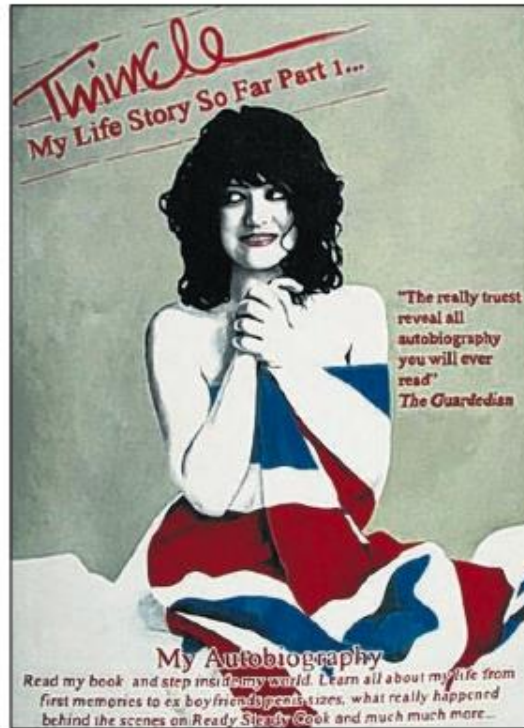


Art Review Twinkle & Tinsel: It Was the Best of Times, It Was the Worst of Times ★★★★★

It's said that people in glass houses shouldn't throw stones, but iconoclastic London artists Twinkle and Tinsel appear to love the sound of shattering glass. Working predominantly with painting, their acerbic commentaries on London's art scene and British popular culture are entertainingly derisive and unforgiving.

Tinsel's skilful yet irreverent paintings focus on chiding a self-obsessed art world. One canvas features a selection of seminal art theory books overlaid with the scrawled words: 'I thought I'd do something conceptual but I got confused'. Nearby, amateur paintings collected from junk shops are plastered with wry statements, mocking contemporary art's love of ready-mades: 'I didn't



paint this' reads one. Elsewhere, Twinkle lampoons the fad for celebrity autobiographies with her

painted mock book-jacket, *My Life Story So Far*; an image of the artist wrapped in a Union Jack flag (pictured) is accompanied by a sardonic blurb declaring the use of a ghostwriter and fabricated facts.

Also on display are a series of mordant Banksy-esque canvases imagining famous UK landmarks as Tesco Express, including St Paul's Cathedral, the Palace Of Westminster and Stonehenge.

Although their insider art-world references are somewhat esoteric, Twinkle and Tinsel unblinkingly hold up a mirror to society, reminding us of just how fatuous we can be.

David Trigg

Until Jun 18, The Long Arm Gallery, Bridewell Street, Bristol, Thu to Sat noon to 7pm, Sun noon to 4pm, free. Tel: 07527 140 323. www.stealfromwork.org