



Twinkle Troughton And Tinsel Edwards

Interview

July 14th 2011

EXCLUSIVE



Twinkle Troughton and Tinsel Edwards are something of legendary figures around London's art scene. Everyone seems to know them or at least know of them, and although they are both very much established artists in their own right, when the pair come together they form this almost superhuman art making duo that usually leaves a wake of mayhem in its path.

With their new show 'Opinionated Objects' due to open July 30th at London's Debut Contemporary Gallery, Twinkle and Tinsel need your help. The pair want you to bring along your unwanted objects and let them know your thoughts and wishes for the future of our planet. What will then be returned to you will be an original signed one off piece of art, otherwise known as your up-cycled, and now hopefully wanted, object. All they ask for in return is a donation to a very worthy cause, the Ubuntu Education Fund.

To find out more about Miss Troughton, Miss Edwards and their show, we sat them down for a chat...

Hi Tinsel, hi Twinkle. For people who don't know you, tell us a little about yourselves both individually and as the superhuman, superhero art creating duo you're known for being?

We've worked together on various projects since we were nine years old. We started our own band called The Jesus Mirrors at 10, joined the Yo Gang who used to do school performances and had a magazine amongst many things, and even collaborated for our final degree shows. Plus we spent seven years of our lives together in The Fairies Band too, so it's really quite natural that we still work together on projects and ideas as we've always created together.

Individually, as contemporary artists, we both have our own unique practices. We both tend to specialise in painting and branch off in our own ways into other mediums. Twinkle's work is a social commentary on modern day Britain, focusing on contemporary, social and political issues, combined with matters of the heart and the human condition. These elements are often explored through art history, and look at how time changes us with technology and knowledge. Underneath though we are still challenged with the same issues as generations before us.

Tinsel incorporates text into her compositions to create political and social commentary entwined with a strong personal narrative. Working mainly with oil on canvas or acrylic on wood, she explores a wide range of themes and issues. Alongside the social commentary the work continually seeks to promote individual creative action and responsibility.

Do you feel you get the best out of each other?

We definitely share a lot of common ground with how we work and what we are inspired by, and are always bringing new influences and inspirations to the table to show to each other. We also talk quite a lot about our concerns, including the dreaded art-block, so we help each other through as well as spark well creatively off each other. Being an artist can feel quite isolating at times, so it's brilliant to be able to vocalise ideas.

How do you view the current art scene here in London? You've always been associated with Street Art, where do you feel you fit in to it all?

When the street art scene really exploded in London it was really exciting to witness it and be around it. Although we don't class ourselves as Street Artists we were on the fringes of it, and often became associated with it, perhaps because some of our work can be subversive or political.

The current art scene in London is changing; Street Art is still massive but not so dominating now. There are some really interesting painting exhibitions going on in the smaller underground galleries.

Where did the idea for your latest event come from?

It is a concept that we actually developed a while ago, originally for a competition we got short listed for, launched by The Hospital Club in Covent Garden. We've been working with The Debut Contemporary Gallery for the majority of the year and they are encouraging artists to use their space proactively, so we thought it was the perfect place to hold the event.

We combined some similar elements of our individual artistic practices to create the 'Opinionated Objects' idea, the use of text in our works for example, and the fact that our artwork as individuals often involves bold commentary on a variety of cultural, political and social themes. We liked the idea of doing something interactive which relies on audience participation, to create a strong visual display which would communicate the hopes and wishes of the general public.

Do you have any expectations or goals you've set out to achieve?

We'd love to get a really strong idea of what it is people want and hope for in their futures, either personally or globally. What people aspire to and are passionate about is so fascinating, especially if you are nosy like us! I think these hopes could also help to inspire each other. Vocalising and communicating our wishes is a brilliant way to inspire each other, and to express our hopes for the future as a community.

And of course we really do hope to raise some money for The Ubuntu Fund (www.ubuntu.org) as they are such a wonderful charity who inspire children affected by, or living with, Aids in South Africa, and support them in making their own dreams come true.

Participatory art seems to be becoming ever more popular, I'm guessing you're big fans? What do you get out of it as artists other than the chance to steal other peoples ideas?

It's a bit unknown to us at the moment as we haven't really done anything like this before. We loved the idea of doing something with an interactive element, its really asking people to think about things in quite a considered way. We all have hopes and dreams which we don't speak about that often, and we don't always have the time or confidence to write to our MPs about global/political concerns. Also it's important to keep speaking out in ways that are creative and nothing to do with politicians! This is a way of visualising them which will hopefully have a really strong impact.

They say one mans junk is another mans treasure, do you have a dream item that you'd love to recycle? Would you give it back?

Hmmm not really sure, we feel the element of surprise is going to be all part of the event, its very intriguing to see what people will turn up with on the day! A friend of ours is threatening to bring in his old Speedos which will be interesting...don't think that's the dream item that we would like to keep!

This show obviously comes from a very meaningful place, and is in aid of a very worthwhile cause, but you're perhaps better known for the chaos you caused in East London while dressed as Traffic Wardens back in 2009, ticketing unsuspecting motorists with what actually turned out to be free art. Can we expect some more trickery in the future?

Definitely! We always have tricks up our sleeves! We'd love to do something similar to the traffic wardens project again. We were known as The Fairies for a very long time, we wore wings on our backs everywhere we went for about eight or nine years and used to get up to all sorts of mischief, who knows if the wings might return one day as we're currently planning a Fairies band reunion!

What else does the future hold?

For some time now we have been planning a big duo exhibition. We want to put on a really ambitious and exciting show to reveal brand new bodies of work that both of us have been really busy working on for the last couple of years. We have yet to find the perfect venue, but when we do we will be pulling out all the stops to put on something very exciting. If people want to add us on **Facebook** or **Twitter** we are constantly updating those with new group shows we are taking part in.

For more information on taking part in Opinionated Objects just register you name at opinionatedart@hotmail.co.uk

Opinionated Objects

Date: June 30th 2011

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Comments



Paddington Bear 2011.7.18 14:53

Should be worth a trip now all I have to decide is what to take