

# AMIR CHASSON

## *My French Nurse's Dream*

### OUTPOST

2 August to 21 August 2012

12 noon to 6pm daily

**Opening View: Wednesday 1 August, 6 - 9pm**

Open to public - admission free

OUTPOST is pleased to present an exhibition by artist member, Amir Chasson.

In recent years, Chasson has contrasted gently distorted faces with something altogether different. Unknown data, in the form of painted charts, diagrams and organic formations, both familiar and imagined, are the antithesis of the portraits with which they are paired. Side by side and coolly disassociated, each gestures a sense of meaning towards the other, but does not undermine or confuse. The pairings sit in equal balance, but ultimately neither acknowledges its opposite.

Dominating the entire gallery space, a large zig-zagging structure stretches upwards, past the metal girders to reach the apex of the roof. A combination of smaller canvases bolted together, this hybrid sculptural, yet painterly structure is a seemingly changeable entity. Variations of the same pictographic symbol, recalling those which mirror Chasson's figurative paintings, ascend the canvas surfaces in precise columns. Although the structure dominates the space, Chasson's conventionally sized portraits can also be viewed on the gallery walls around its different levels.

The imagery painted on the canvas composition is reminiscent of an outdated weight system. Rounded shapes rendered in bold green colours peak and trough in climbing tendrils, at times breaking apart. There is little movement in this composite object compared to previous geometric works, yet this new form of stacked paintings elicits a sense of weight and depth, reinforcing the entire presence of the structure in the room. Similarly in the past, pictorial movement in Chasson's diagrammatic forms had encouraged expression in the adjacent portraiture, as if the physiognomy of each anonymous subject was smiling, jeering at you. In comparison, the weight brought about by these round, stacked shapes stirs something altogether different in each uncanny, painted face looking at you.

Chasson's pairing of faces with quasi-real geometric objects willfully invites unpredictable associations from viewers encountering each uncanny work. Imagined painted geometry both contradicts and heightens the strange physiognomy of the portrait, making you question the face peering back at you, do you recognise them? Are they familiar somehow? Even when the gallery space is engulfed by such an overwhelming structure, it is at this moment that the face becomes something more expressive, conveying a personality emphasised by painted objects positioned around it.

Amir Chasson is an artist who lives and works in London. He studied Fine Art at Goldsmiths graduating in 2010. Recent group exhibitions include *Drawing 2011*, The Drawing Room, London (2011), *Salon*, Doubtfire Gallery, Edinburgh (2011), *Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2010*, ICA, London and A Foundation, Liverpool (2010). Future exhibitions include *Manmadegod*, ArtEco, London (August) and *Painters' Painters*, Saatchi Gallery, London.

For more information please contact [questions@norwichoutpost.org](mailto:questions@norwichoutpost.org)

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