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THE LIST

American Artist Trenton Doyle Hancock talks to Rosie Lesso about the Wayward Thinker.

Trenton Doyle Hancock, *Cult of ColorSalad*, 2006,Mixed Media on Canvas, 60 X 60 inches

RL How do you feel about having your first exhibition in Europe?
TDH It feels good. I'm excited about the prospect of the work gaining an audience here.
RL Will you be showing new work?
TDH Yes. About 10% of the work has not been seen in a gallery before.
RL What does the exhibition title refer to?
TDH It refers to a character named ST Sesom who is a vegan priest. He became the first waywardly thinking 'good' vegan.
RL Could you explain briefly the narrative running through your work?
TDH Briefly? Not really! What I will say is that my stories tend to arise out of my theory that good and evil are often interchangeable.
RL There seems to be a range of comic book style characters that crop up in your work; could you describe some of them?
TDH Well, let's see…there are vegans. As I see it, vegans were once human, but because of centuries of inbreeding, they have lost their humanity. There are also characters called colour babies. Colour babies hatch from eggs and attack vegans, assimilating themselves into the vegan's body thus making the vegan turn 'good'. I just released a book which brings together all of these character and many more.
RL There seems to also be a solid relationship between text and image in your work; how will you be exploring this at The Fruitmarket?
TDH Aside from exploiting text as a vehicle for poetry and a didactic guide, I will also explore text's physicality. In other words, the texts will, at times, take on a presence usually associated with image. It is a kind of concrete poetry.
RL As with previous exhibitions, will you be incorporating found objects into the exhibition?
TDH I can assure you that you will discover garbage in this exhibition.
RL Will there be any other unexpected surprises?
TDH Juggling clowns…No, not really, but if I told you then it would cease to be a surprise.