

Reviews



'Carrot and Head'

**Ansel Knut**  
DomoBaal West End

Ansel Knut's watercolours describe life as a grotesque carnival of peculiar acts and atrocities. At a glance, the room appears full of tinted rather than painted works on paper – like satirical cartoons or old photographs. Played out with orange

blood and quasi-human characters, the matter-of-fact violence flits indiscriminately between shock and slapstick. As you scan the room, human body parts and associated matter – eyeballs, faeces, tongues – become a washed-out sea of disturbingly funny motifs. An umber turd with a detached, cloud-like head attempts to eat a steaming pile of shit with a knife and fork, while chuffing on a che-root; a line of vaudeville skeletons do the can-can across their paper ground. Knut titles his works like a poetic police photographer: 'How to Build a Mermaid' consists of a tangerine-coloured foot and a rotary saw; 'Inside Out' depicts a balloon-headed figure staring in shock at its own entrails.

The success of the images lies in their production; they appear to have been made very quickly, as if plucked from a dream rather than being a carefully planned narrative. But if you look closely, the controlled proliferation of candy colours and painterly hues reveals an artist caught between the beauty of the paint and the complexity of his subject matter. *Rebecca Geldard*