



Callan Park Gallery

For Self-Taught and Outsider Art

Kevin Meagher

Kevin Meagher is a Sydney artist whose practice is focused on portraits of mythological and spiritual figures. Meagher has been producing work for 6 years, and initiated his practice during time he spent in Hospital. Since then he has developed his body of work through involvement with the Pioneer Clubhouse specialised studio in Balgowlah on Sydney's northern beaches as well as the Insideout Gallery and studio at Macquarie Hospital in North Ryde, where he has taken up the role of artist-in-residence.

Meagher is drawn to the study of eastern and western spiritual, astrological and religious belief systems: Norse, Greek, Slavic and ancient Egyptian mythology as well as Christianity and Hinduism have been referenced in his work. He amalgamates figures

and allegories from these systems with each other, as well as with everyday objects and popular culture. In his body of work he pays no particular regard to any one system, though he is consistently drawn to depictions of Jesus, who has appeared in his work matched with such seemingly disparate and unlikely bedfellows as Mars, the Roman god of war, an everyday rubbish bin, and Kali, the Hindu goddess, who also appears regularly in his work.



Ever the iconoclast, Meagher is cavalier in his choice of combinations and pictorially unrelenting in their execution – there is little attention paid to traditional methods of detailing and beautifying sacred figures. The ceramic works, which are comparable to totemic artefacts or sacred offerings, are particularly unsettling to look at, such is the violence evident in their construction. Focusing on drawing, painting and ceramics, Meagher works quickly and with abandon, leaving traces of his process across the work – from frenetic ballpoint pen lines to mounds collected at the base of gouged channels of clay. It is easy to visualise his hand moving back and forth with a pen, or dragged across the surface of his ceramic works.



The effect of Meagher's unrestrained process is art that is simultaneously jarring and compelling. His works, both on paper and in ceramics, are disquieting, but also contain an unexpected innocence and humour. These qualities are attributable perhaps to the use of highlighters and soft pastel tones, as well as to the unexpected, often humorous combinations that appear throughout. Humour is a particular strength of Meagher's, something he demonstrates in works such as *Hades Pluto*, which merges Pluto and Hades into a single ceramic form. The Pluto that Meagher depicts is not the ruler of the underworld in ancient Greek mythology, however – it is Disney's favourite cartoon dog.

Despite his irreverent subject matter and agitated aesthetic, Meagher is not, as one might think, making a disparaging philosophical statement on spirituality or its function within society – indeed, Meagher is highly spiritual himself and says that the work is inspired by his love of all gods. He uses the process of creation exclusively for his own ends, as a way of exploring and expanding his knowledge of mythology and religion and as part of a healing process for himself and those around him. It is challenging, compelling, highly experiential and intensely personal work – we are privileged to be allowed to share it with him.

Hugh Nichols, May 2010



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1. Hades Pluto - \$300
2. Dragon Princess
3. Apollo Mars
4. Kali Mars Oct
5. Sun Loki
6. Crazy Venus Man
7. Dana Saule
8. Undine Princess - \$300
9. Shiva the Bee
10. Jewel Tree
11. Super Bella
12. Moon Aries
13. Ra Uranus
14. Iris Mary - \$300
15. Danna Venus - \$250
16. Neptune Lir - \$300
17. Ganga Ocean - \$300
18. Gnome Prince - \$300
19. Vishna Sky - \$250
20. Kali Rama - \$300
21. Thor War - \$250
22. Zeus Jesus - \$300
23. Girl Ganga Shiva
24. Neal Hawk
25. Ben and Tim at War
26. Jesus Bin Earth (negotiable)
27. Jesus Tree Bin (negotiable)
28. Eros Bird (negotiable)
29. Girl Kali Heal (negotiable)
30. Kali Tree Heal (negotiable)
31. Boy Kali Heal (negotiable)
32. Cupid Love Dog
33. Eros Helios
34. Eros Bat (negotiable)
35. Angel Spell
36. Virus Spell
37. Blood Kali Change

A2 works on paper \$300/A3 works on paper \$250 (works marked negotiable need to be discussed).
All works on paper for sale are unframed.

Kevin Meagher will be on display to Wednesday 23 June 2010.

Gallery hours: By appointment

For further information please contact:

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