



GALLERY

MOTHER KNOWS BEST

KATY MC GUINNESS visits *Mother's Tankstation*, Dublin's most exciting new art space

Located in a converted sausage-making factory by the Liffey in one of the few parts of Dublin City still almost untouched by gentrification, Mother's Tankstation is a commercial gallery that feels like a small museum. Established in November 2005 by Finola Jones, herself a successful artist (her show 'Why (Blue) Birds Sing' opens in the Butler Gallery, Kilkenny, in November), the gallery's aim is to increase the range of art available to the public and to encourage them to start collecting. The work can be challenging - think installations, soundworks and video pieces as well as paintings and drawings - and the gallery fits more into the in European/NY mould than the Irish.

Representing artists from the new (Nina Canell had just graduated when she had her first solo show) to the more mature (Garrett Phelan's work has been acquired from Mother's Tankstation by IMMA and the Hugh Lane Gallery), the fledgling gallery is already a force to be reckoned with on the international art scene.

"We had been open a month when I applied to participate in LISTE 06 (The Young Art Fair) which runs alongside Art Basel, itself the biggest and most important art fair in the world," says Jones. "We were the first Irish gallery to participate. We'll also attend NADA (New Art Dealers Alliance) in December in Miami. The fairs are not just about selling art, they're about making connections and working collaboratively with galleries around the world on behalf of artists. And you get to talk about art all day. It's great."

Jones is married to artist David Godbold (see *What Was I Thinking*, p160), and the couple's international art world contacts are many and impressive. Coupled with an integrity of purpose and a certain flair for throwing a party - Mother's Tankstation openings are already legendary - the gallery's upward trajectory is assured. ■

'Getting on Mother's Nerves', a group show of over 100 drawings from very young Irish artists to established talent from abroad, priced between €300- €5,000, from October 19. 41-43 Watling Street, Ushers Island, Dublin 8, 01 671 7654; www.motherstankstation.com

