

Press Release

Lisa Milroy *Act One, Seen Too*

6-18 September 2011
The Barber Institute of Fine Arts
University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TS

Ikon and the Barber Institute of Fine Arts present *Act One, Seen Too*, a new work by UK artist Lisa Milroy.

Set in the Grade II listed Barber Concert Hall, *Act One, Seen Too* is a painting-installation consisting of handmade painted kimonos, each with a character-like presence, and a number of banner paintings hung from the ceiling apparatus on the stage. Each banner features a kimono, depicted as if cast into a role in a play. Viewers are invited to see the work seated in the concert hall and subsequently to experience it on stage, surrounded by the elements of the painting.

Milroy directly addresses the participatory nature of looking at painting and the presence of the subject. Seen from the concert hall seats, the painting components appear framed by the stage and form a single still image, subject only to the viewer's gaze. By then asking visitors to step onto the stage, Milroy encourages them to explore the various components of the painting and initiates a scene in which they begin to 'perform' the painting for themselves. *Act One, Seen Too* therefore offers a dialogue between still image and live action.

Born in Vancouver, Canada but living in the UK, Lisa Milroy graduated from Goldsmiths College in 1982. Her artistic practice is based on still life painting. From the 1980s when her paintings depicted ordinary objects against an off-white background, through the 1990s, a time in which her compositions grew to include landscape, architecture and people, her work has developed in recent years to focus on large-scale paintings.

A major survey of her work was held at Tate Liverpool in 2001. Recent solo shows include *Time and Time Again*, artsdepot, London (2010); *Shouting From A Rock*, Pharos Centre for Contemporary Art, Nicosia, Cyprus (2010); *Improvisations*, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol (2011) and *House Guest*, The Corridor, Reykjavik, Iceland (2011).

Act One, Seen Too will also be presented at UCL (University College London) Bloomsbury Theatre in January 2012.

ENDS.

Note to Editors:

1. *Act One, Seen Too* is presented at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TS. Open Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 12pm-5pm. Free entry.
2. Ikon Gallery is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 6pm. Free entry.
3. Ikon Gallery is a registered charity and receives core funding from Birmingham City Council and Arts Council England. Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon. Registered address: 1 Oozells Square, Birmingham B1 2HS.
4. For more information and images please contact Helen Stallard, Press and PR Consultant, on 0774 033 9604 or h.stallard@ikon-gallery.co.uk

Sample image:

