

**NICK ARCHER**

*Make-believe*



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*Make-believe*

### Private View

6 – 8.30pm Thursday 18th June 2009

Exhibition continues until 11th July 2009



 **SARAH MYERSCOUGH FINE ART**  
15-16 BROOKS MEWS MAYFAIR W1K 4DS

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web: [www.sarahmyerscough.com](http://www.sarahmyerscough.com) Opening hrs: Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 12-3

above: Untitled, 2009. Mixed media on board, 15 x 10 cm

above right: Untitled, 2009. Mixed media on board, 15 x 10 cm

cover: Heaven on Earth, 2009. Mixed media on canvas, 152 x 152 cm

back cover: Eye Spy (Study), 2009. Mixed media on board, 10 x 15 cm

above: Untitled, 2009. Mixed media on board, 10 x 15 cm

above right: Untitled, 2009. Mixed media on board, 10 x 15 cm



Follow Follow, 2009. Mixed media on canvas, 152 x 152 cm

## *Make – believe*

These lavish new paintings by Nick Archer refer to children's paraphernalia scattered on the playroom floor; comics, magazines, glitter and beads, broken toys and Barbie dolls, or characters from children's programmes, old family video footage, and photographs. Imagery is collaged or painted onto the surface of the artist's canvas, and then obliterated or accentuated through poured pools of overripe coloured paint.

Archer is intrigued with the Victorian preoccupation with idealism, fantasy fairytale and myth, in the work of such painters as Richard Dadd and the Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood. The artist incorporates their aesthetics of romanticism into the compositional process, with the contemporary kick of the kitsch to create a rich visual vocabulary that intoxicates the senses with decorative, glittery expanses. These jewel-like qualities are also inspired by such contemporary artists as Fred Tomaselli and Turner Prize winner Chris Ofili. Clearly such beautiful paintings are able to seduce the onlooker, yet in the case of these two artists, simultaneously threaten to repel through often macabre and disturbing imagery. Archer however takes you on a journey into the wondrous and seemingly random meanderings of a child's mind, yet through the painting process he is able to disrupt notions of what is real or make-believe.

The 1917 photographs of the 'Cottingley Fairies', a source of inspiration, deceived the public through trick photography into believing the unbelievable, and in much the same way the artist can manipulate our own perceptions of reality. In Archer's paintings, the photography, collage and painted surfaces are often indistinguishable, and characters and landscape could be either fictional or real. So are we experiencing the artist's world of visual metaphor or a child's playful imagination and belief in fairy-tale? In today's world, searching for answers, this is a dream we could readily escape to.

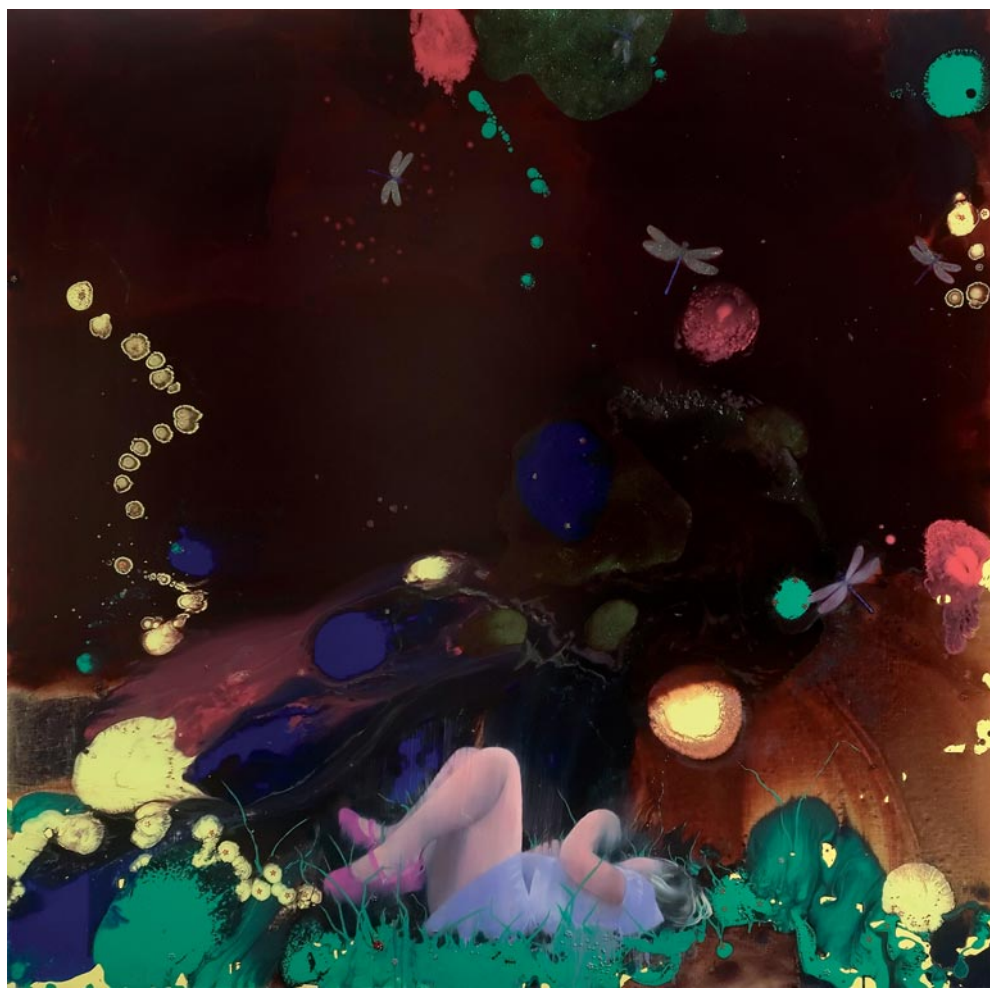


Butterfly Flutterby, 2009. Mixed media on canvas, 183 x 183 cm



*above:* Hide and Seek, 2009. Mixed media on board, 50 x 50 cm

*above right:* The Gardener, 2009. Mixed media on board, 50 x 50 cm



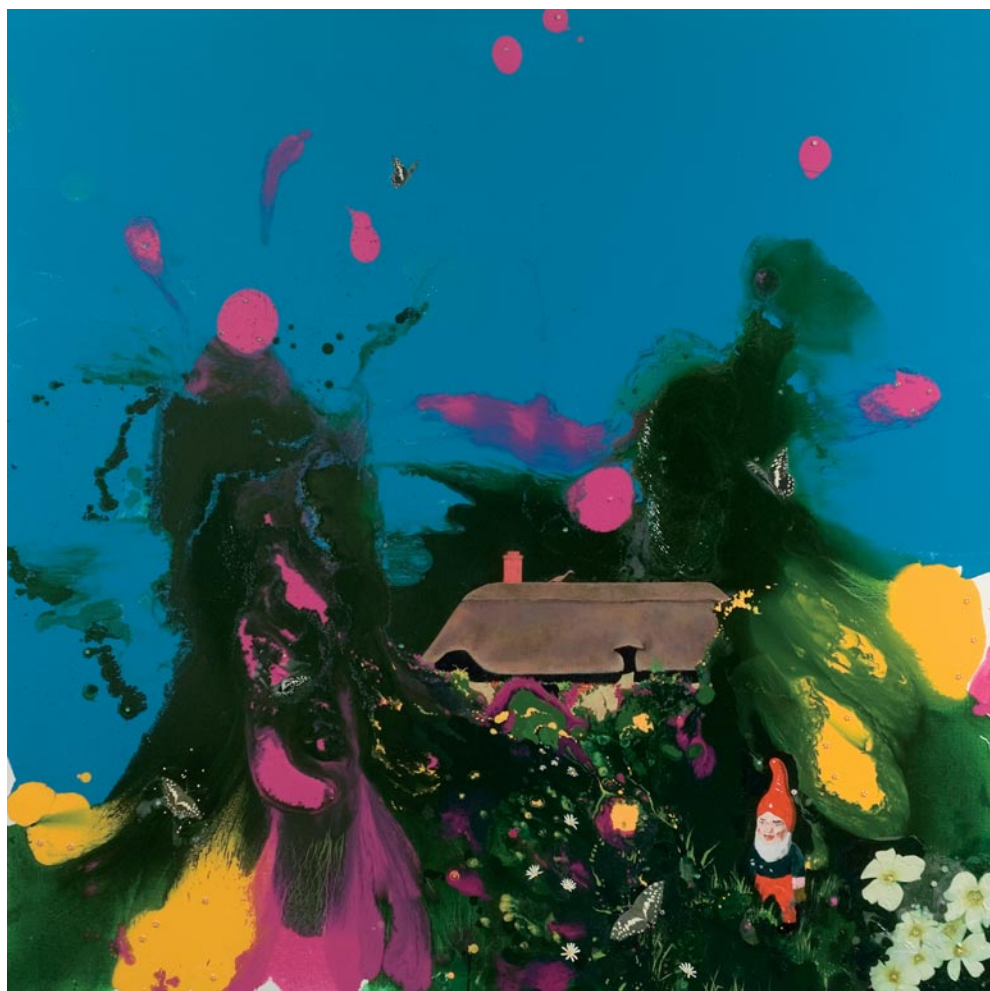
Daydream Believer, 2009. Mixed media on canvas, 152 x 152 cm



*above:* Wonderland, 2009. Mixed media on board, 60 x 50 cm

*above right:* Winter's Tale, 2009. Mixed media on board, 50 x 50 cm





Pathway to Hathaway, 2009. Mixed media on canvas, 152 x 152 cm



Tracks in the snow, 2009. Mixed media on canvas, 152 x 183 cm