

Proposal for The Economist Plaza

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For the past six years an aspect of my practice I have been involved with making Art in the public realm . As part of this I have spend much time on site visits thinking about the public spaces we all inhabit and looking at architect's visions of what they could be. It struck me on many occasions that there exists two parallel worlds; one where the public, engaged in consumer activities, glide comfortably and proprietarily through shiny spaces and the other where the homeless and disenfranchised shuffle around gathering up the cast off's and trying to keep fed, warm and dry.

This led me to think about the animals that come into the city after dark and our attitude to them as sometimes cute and sentimental and sometimes as vermin. These animals in urban settings seem to me to be pursuing the contemporary equivalent of the travails found in the tales of Beatrix Potter. Somewhere between these vagrant animals and the world of the homeless lies an updated cast of characters for fresh telling of Beatrix Potters guilt ridden tales of misbehaviour and punishment.

For the Economist Plaza, set in an exclusive, privileged, part of London, I would like to make a set of four works built around Beatrix Potter characters particularly those illustrated in Royal Dalton ceramic figurines. One is based on Mrs Tiggywinkle, the hedgehog, one on Jeremy Fisher the toad, one on Mr Todd the fox and the other Tommy Brock the badger [please see sketches for these].

These works will be shown in November through to January encompassing Christmas when tramp fatigue is disallowed and people become acutely aware of the homeless for a short, sentimental, holiday.

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