

Elusive

Yu-Chen Wang
Cyril Lepetit
Andro Semeiko
Mamuka Japaridze

20 January - 24 February 2008

The Parlour Studios & Project Space, London

Curated by BasementArtProject.com

Elusive presents a world where things are not quite what they seem. These things are not illusions; they appear to be like fleeting elements in the world made up of symbols and distorted meanings. The exhibition brings together newly commissioned works by London-based artists Yu-Chen Wang, Cyril Lepetit and Andro Semeiko, and Tbilisi-based artist Mamuka Japaridze.

For further information

www.BasementArtProject.com/elusive

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Andro Semeiko *The Moment Before* 36x26cm acrylic and oil on canvas 2008



Andro Semeiko *installation view* acrylic and oil on canvas and wall 2008
Cyril Lepetit *Warm grey perspective on white wall* wall painting 2008



Andro Semeiko *Black Rider* 25x24x33cm mixed media 2006



Mamuka Japaridze *installation view* 2008



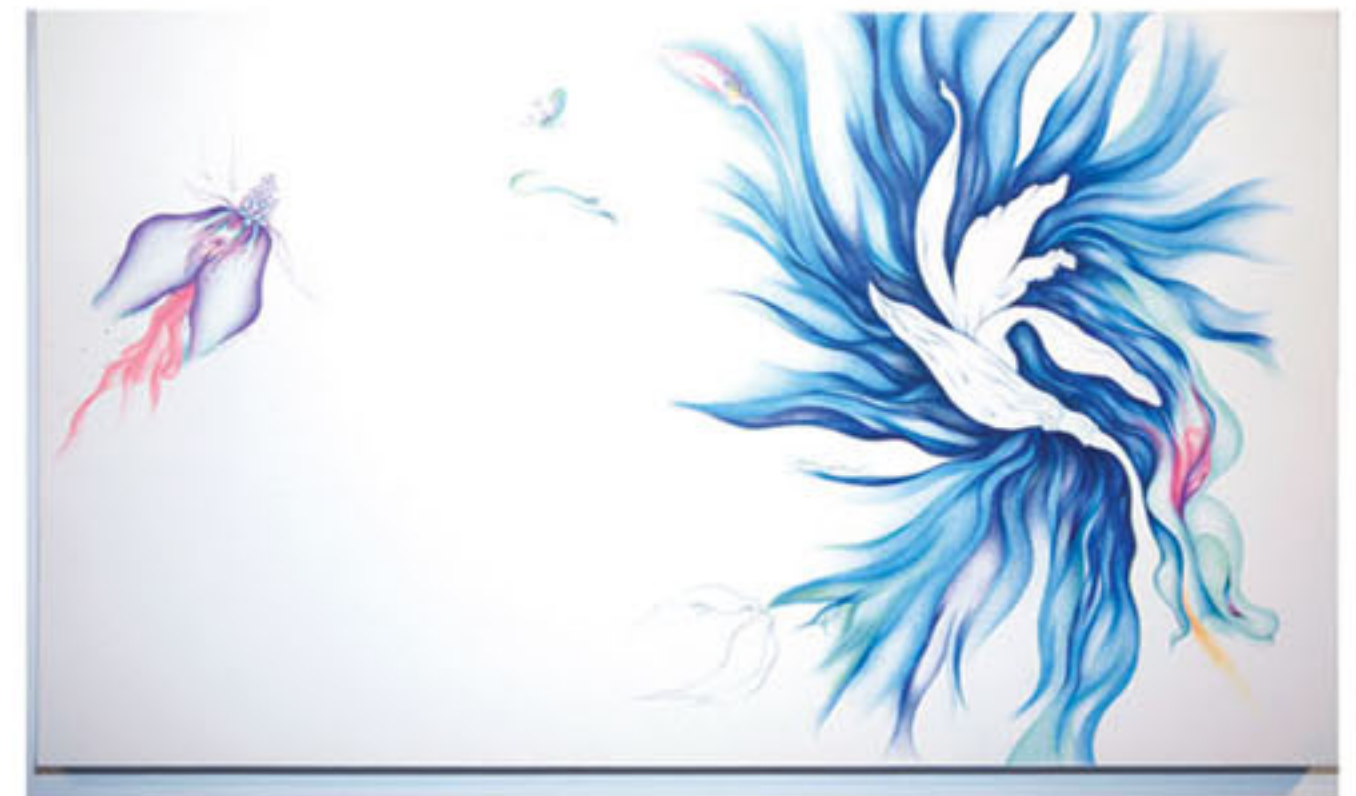
Mamuka Japaridze *Untitled* 30x40cm inkjet print 2005



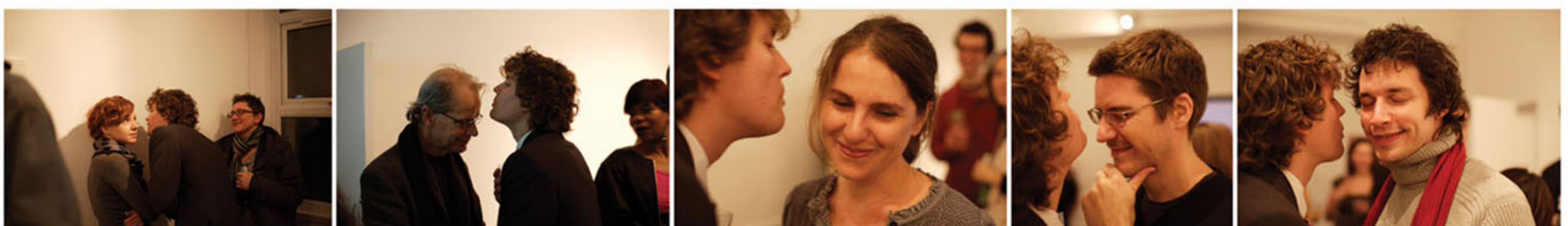
Cyril Lepetit *Fantasy and Canvas*
beard hair brushes in pear wood box and blank canvas waiting to be painted 2008



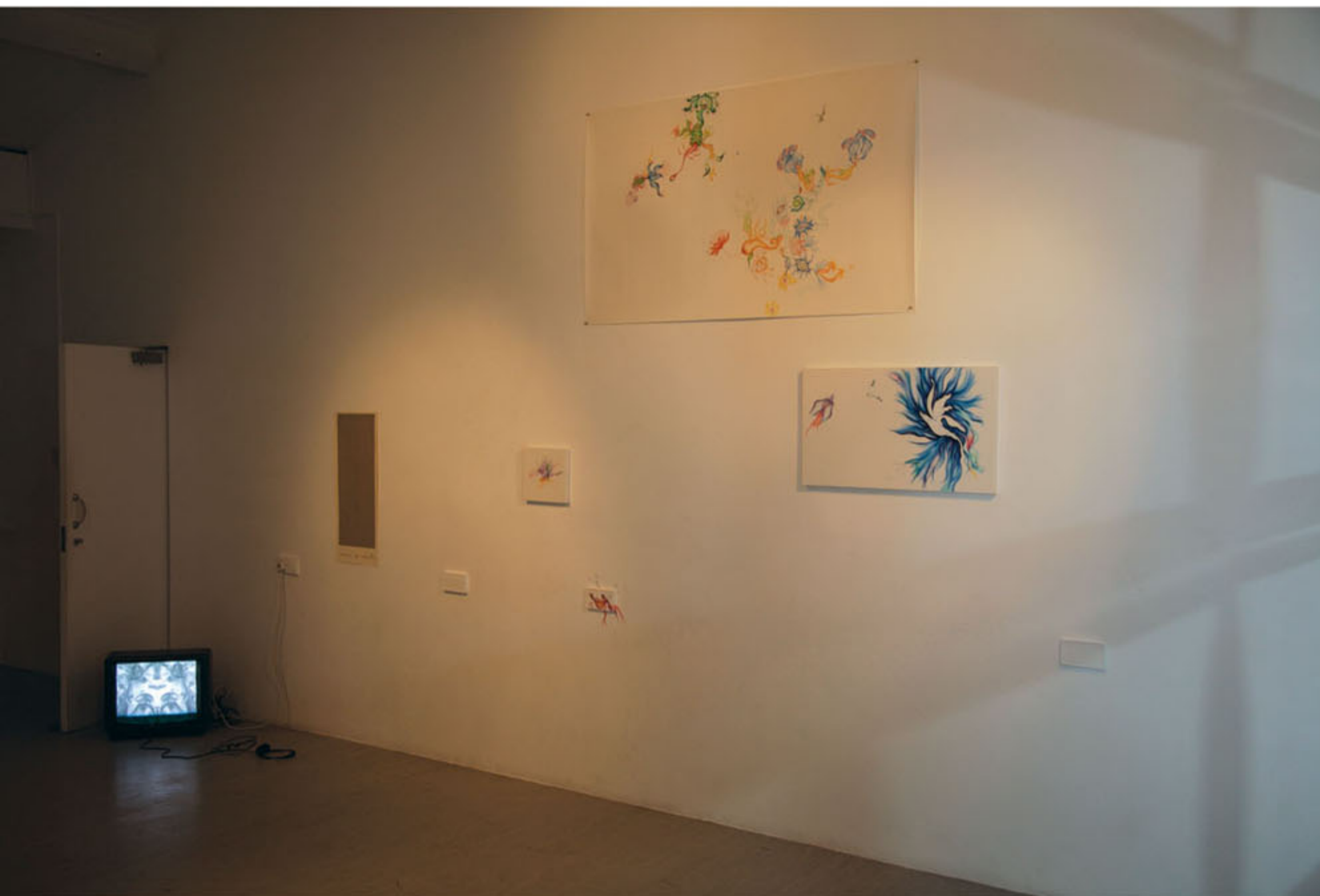
Yu-Chen Wang *installation view* colour pencil on paper and wall 2008



Yu-Chen Wang *To Good to Be True* 44x75cm colour pencil on paper mounted on MDF 2008



Cyril Lepetit *Will our desires stay the same from our first caress to our last breath?* performance in the gallery 19 January 2008



Elusive

Elusive is a show of works by four artists that in different ways, as the title implies, make a point of slipping away from the captivity of easy, reductive, dull, generalised resolutions. The artworks in *Elusive* operate in ways that attend closely to the slippery specific qualities of meaning; of the relations of forms to contents and contents to forms; of the differences between what is seen and what is known or what is not seen and not known, and so on... But more than this, the elusiveness of the artworks on show is richly generative of meaning and value without being prescriptive about meaning or value.

Yu-Chen Wang's colourful drawings of abstract organic forms spread on paper across a wall, spilling playfully onto the wall around. Her forms move in and out of one another, interacting on the way, referencing to the functional aesthetics of animal and botanical biology, her images flux from highly finished effects to sketchier areas, giving a sense of seamlessly varying graphic functions. Drawing over an electric socket so that it mirrors her paper, this sense of the function of her imagery seamlessly morphing carries through her work.

Cyril Lepetit makes art from sensual qualities of human experience. His performance titled *Will our desires stay the same from our first caress to our last breath?* entailed him blowing gently on the faces of people at the opening of the show. Lepetit also painted an area with floor coloured paint up the gallery wall, working up a sense of the subtle disorientation that the space already holds. A video relates the process of a pupa becoming a butterfly to Lepetit plucking his facial hair, the hair is then seen in brushes with which he has formlessly painted a face. Lepetit's work alludes to an open sense of sexuality whilst its open sensual quality ultimately refuses thematic reduction.

Andro Semeiko paints single everyday objects in a deadpan illustrative manner, their meaning and relations become a matter of open surreal speculation, often involving a more or less oblique absurdist humour, this he carries further in paintings of medieval knights, for instance, flying spaceships. He shows a sculpture too of a crash helmet suspended upside down in the air, filled with sand that forms a miniature desert across which a band of ant-like figures marches. These gleefully frivolous artworks refuse seriousness, reflecting and engendering seriously playful relations to the world.

A piece of paper covered in a fine red and white checks reveals a ghostly side view of an unknown face (the artist's face) only when viewed from afar, this work like others by Mamuka Japaridze uses an optical illusion as the starting point in developing a deeper sense of human mystery. A video shows mirrored images of bits of tree bark that seem to show faces. The optical effect is not mystified, it is merely itself, but the wonder of the human capacity for open ended experience is explored.

Alasdair Duncan



Yu-Chen Wang *Apart or Together*



Cyril Lepetit *Displacement Activity*



Andro Semeiko *Black Rider*



Mamuka Japaridze *Eye Tree in a Mirror*

Yu-Chen Wang (b.1978 Taichung, Taiwan) lives and works in London. Wang studied at Goldsmiths College (2001) and Chelsea College of Art and Design (2002). She has exhibited internationally, including BBC Big Screen, Manchester, curated by Cornerhouse (2006/07); *Archi-peinture: Moving in Architecture*, Camden Arts Centre, London (2006); *Saison Vidéo 2007*, FRAC Nord-Pas de Calais, France and *New Life and the Dream Garden*, Fieldgate Gallery, London (2007).

Cyril Lepetit (b.1970 Cherbourg, France) lives and works in London. He has shown at CCA Tel Aviv; CAC Vilnius; Camden Arts Centre, London; *Abattoirs*, Musée d'Art Moderne de Toulouse, FRAC Basse-Normandie, France; Art Concept Gallery, Paris; Leroy Neiman Gallery, Columbia University, NY; *Metropolis Rise: New Art from London*, Beijing & Shanghai; ICA, London and Liverpool Biennial 2006. Since 2002 he has organised The International Exhibitionist events.

Andro Semeiko (b.1975 Ozurgeti, Georgia) lives and works in London. Semeiko studied at Tbilisi State Academy of Fine Arts (1998), Utrecht School of the Arts (2000), Goldsmiths College (2001) and the Royal Academy of Arts (2006). He has exhibited in *New Contemporaries 2001*, Camden Arts Centre, London and Sunderland Museum. In 2007 his work has been exhibited in *Celeste Art Prize 07*, Truman Brewery, London and Sotheby's Auction, London.

Mamuka Japaridze (b.1962 Tbilisi, Georgia) lives and works in Tbilisi. Japaridze studied at Tbilisi State Academy of Fine Arts (1986). He has represented Georgia at the 48th Venice Biennale with *From Tartarus Experience* (1999). His recent exhibitions include *Pea-Musha Pelamusha*, Green Man Pub, London (2007) and *Atmosphere 41 Degree*, Siemens Sanat, Istanbul (2007).