

## Alex Frost BBQ

23 February - 6 April, 2008

Preview and Reception for the Artist: Saturday 23 February 2008, 2pm

ArtSway is proud to present an exhibition of new work by the Glasgow-based artist, Alex Frost. The exhibition will include a range of new sculptures and drawings that relate directly to the residency Frost undertook in late 2007. These works play upon the concept of the rural retreat in contrast to the artist's urban, or specifically suburban, standpoint.

The works for ArtSway contain subtle suggestions to wholesome and improving lifestyles. These include floral motifs adorning a box of slimmer's tea, a small crop of vegetables decorating a carton of vegetable juice or an image of a yucca houseplant. These motifs all share an uncomfortable relationship with their rural setting as well as collectively referring directly to it. In one example, a large mosaic sculpture of a packet of vegetarian hamburger-mix mimics high street signage, but its meaning is left deliberately ambiguous.

Previous projects by Frost have included a series of large-scale, misshapen, mosaic sculptures that complement the 'blind drawing' series. These mosaics depict the commercial packaging of products such as Ryvita, Earl Grey tea and After Eight mints. These items were chosen for their references to sophisticated, social and grown-up lifestyles - all suggestions that contradict the playful aesthetic inherent in the work. The sculptures, versions of which will be exhibited at ArtSway, refer to civic sculptures or murals and have been sited both within the gallery setting as well as in the public domain.

They have been installed in a range of urban environments - areas of wasteland fenced off awaiting development, an outdoor cafe, within a multi-purpose arts centre and on the exterior of a gallery overlooking a flyover. These sculptures and drawings simultaneously echo a handcrafted intensity and hands-off technological processes that are integral to the artist's work. In particular, the 'blind drawings' use a technique specially developed by Frost where images are rendered in pinpricks that perforate a sheet of paper. Enamel is then painted through these perforations to create an image with a surface that refers to both circuit boards and needlework: a virtual clash between the handcrafted and the technological. Frost's work combines elements of art, architecture and sculpture to create both thoughtful and playful pieces.

The work to be shown at ArtSway uses new and recycled motifs that are fed through a 'pastoral filter' with jarring results. For example, a series of mosaic panels depict logos as if seen through the surface of a pool of water; these panels reference nature through their rendering but the logos represent technological formats such as Compact Disc, DVD and Dolby. The watery rendering of these images refers more to a cultivated habitat, such as an atrium fountain, or perhaps a public lido.

For Artsway, Frost will exhibit work within the gallery as well as one sculptural work that will be sited within the village of Sway.

Alex Frost's exhibition at ArtSway is presented in partnership with Milton Keynes Gallery, where his exhibition Adults is on display until 4 November 2007. For more information please go to: [www.mk-g.org](http://www.mk-g.org)

## Notes for Editors

Alex Frost lives and works in Glasgow. Recent exhibitions include Adults, Milton Keynes Gallery; Format Wars, Tramway, Glasgow, and Adults, Galerie Sandra Buerger, Berlin. Alex Frost is represented by Sorcha Dallas ([www.sorchadallas.com](http://www.sorchadallas.com)). He graduated from Glasgow School of Art in 1998 (MFA) and in 2006 was the recipient of the CCA Glasgow Residency.

ArtSway is a unique place in the UK's New Forest to see, discuss, make and engage with contemporary visual art. A purpose-built and architecturally important gallery space hosts a changing programme of exhibitions and wide ranging creative opportunities for all.

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ArtSway is open: Tuesday - Sunday 11am - 5pm, Admission is FREE

### Associated Events:

#### Gallery Talk

**Saturday 23 February 2008, 3pm**

Alex Frost will discuss his residency, new works for ArtSway, and the ideas behind his work in ArtSway's galleries. With ArtSway Exhibitions Curator Peter Bonnell. **Free, booking essential.**

#### Art in Context (Environment): The Dialectics of Environmental Art

**Wednesday 5 March, 2008, 7pm**

A lecture by Stephen Edge, Senior Lecturer at Bournemouth University, presented alongside the exhibition *Alex Frost: BBQ*. This lecture will examine the creative synergy that takes place between artists, engineers and contractors in the production of large-scale works of art. The Dialectics of Environmental Art, will focus on the work of legendary environmental artists Christo and Jeanne Claude, and will cover all aspects of producing large-scale works of art from concept to completion. Edge will use, as a key case study, Christo and Jeanne Claude's temporary work 'Running Fence', set in Northern California in 1976, which he helped erect. **Free, booking essential.**

**For press images, interviews, and further information, please contact Jack Lewis on 01590 682260 x16 or email [jack.lewis@artsway.org.uk](mailto:jack.lewis@artsway.org.uk)**