

# Cartel

## Modal

25th June – 30 July 2010

Private View Thursday 24th June 6.30 – 9 pm

Open late Friday 25 June as part of Deptford Last Friday

Cartel Gallery is pleased to present *Modal*, a two-person exhibition of Lilah Fowler and Dan Miller, curated by Oliver Basciano, as its inaugural show. *Modal* takes its direction from the exhibition space it occupies, a shipping, or intermodal, container, to investigate the process of mathematic deduction and its relation to visual abstraction, together with highlighting the infinity suggested by universal measurements.

Invented by trucking entrepreneur Malcolm McLean, the container revolutionised the transportation of goods in the mid-1950s by severely cutting down on the manpower needed to unload ships. McLean ensured the universal success of his idea by giving up its patent: resulting in the mass international take-up on his economic means of goods distribution through the universal design – and measurements – of his box. The exactitude of the volume within a container has even resulted in the unit term the ‘twenty-foot equivalent’. *Modal* pays homage to the logistics of this transportation system by employing space-logical symmetry in its curation: two artists will display two works. When packing a ship odd numbers do not pay. The number two is the minimalist of all non-singular digits: it is the basis of integers, the lowest prime number, the first of the Pell-Lucas numbers. It is the basis that all counting must be catalysed from. The one is just the one, the two suggests more; one container is a container, two containers suggest the beginning of a shipment.

Working in both painting and sculpture, Glasgow-based Dan Miller’s work pares the subject down to its most minimal of forms; the simplicity of the evident material belying the complex mental process operating beneath the surface. For *Modal*, Miller exhibits *Factum I* and *Factum II*, (2010), a diptych – titularly referencing Robert Rauschenberg’s 1957 work – which investigates the viewer’s relationship with repetition and duality. The works are inexact replications of each other, leaving the viewer in a state of quandary over hierarchy and their relationship. The works operate separately but the viewer cannot help but project singularity onto them. A similar duality exists in *Future Fiction* and *By Unknown Means* (2009), two stainless steel sculptures by London-based Lilah Fowler. Their angular geometric forms reflect each other back and forth. On viewing one, the viewer can always perceive two. Yet, again the reflected version of the second will always be an imperfect distortion. Simultaneously from varying angles, the geometric folds can appear flat, causing confusion in

the recognition process and articulating the complex relationship between objects and space, volume and measurement.

**Lilah Fowler** studied sculpture at Edinburgh College of Art and MA Sculpture at the Royal College of Art. Solo exhibitions include the Corn Exchange Gallery Edinburgh (2009) and Brown, London (2009), whom she is represented by. In 2010 Fowler has exhibited as part of *Architectural Disorder* curated by Launch Collaborative at Oxfordshire Visual Arts Development Agency and *Peeping Tom* curated by Keith Coventry at Vegas, London. Lilah Fowler lives and works in London. [www.lilahfowler.com](http://www.lilahfowler.com)

**Dan Miller** studied Fine Art Painting at the Glasgow School of Art. Solo exhibitions include DUNK! Copenhagen, SWG3 Glasgow, Atelier Am Eck Düsseldorf and the Grace & Clark Fyfe Gallery at the Glasgow School of Art. In 2010 Miller's solo exhibition *Still Life* was staged in SWG3's offsite space to coincide with Glasgow International. Group shows include Galerie Mark Müller Zürich, Southside Studios Glasgow, Embassy Edinburgh. In November 2010 Miller will take the CPH AIR residency at the Factory for Art & Design, Copenhagen. Dan Miller lives and works in Glasgow. [www.danmiller.co.uk](http://www.danmiller.co.uk)

*Modal* is curated by **Oliver Basciano**. He is Assistant Editor at *ArtReview* magazine and has written for a variety of others including *Modern Painters*, *MAP*, *Wallpaper*, *Building Design* and *Architect's Journal*. In 2010 he curated *Meteor* at New Court Gallery, Derbyshire and sat on the *Bold Tendencies IV* curatorial committee.

Cartel is open Thursday – Saturday 1– 6pm.

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For more information etc contact: [trixie@cartelgallery.com](mailto:trixie@cartelgallery.com)

**[www.cartelgallery.com](http://www.cartelgallery.com)**