Carey Young: Memento Park

Reviewed by Dave Porter February 2011

Cornerhouse presents a major touring solo show by artist Carey Young. Young, who grew up in Manchester and also studied here, is best known for her witty explorations of corporate and legal culture. Using a variety of media including video, photography, text and telephonic systems, Young examines these worlds, altering their language and tools to create fictional and absurd scenarios, which operate midway between performance and installation.

The main piece in this rich offering of Carey Young's work at the Cornerhouse centres on an elephants' graveyard of Soviet-era statues now huddled forlornly in a park in Budapest. The serenity of the setting and the suburban backdrop provide a jagged relief for Lenin and his comrades whose heroic poses and animated call to arms for the revolution go unnoticed by their verdant surroundings. They look less like they're directing a revolution than directing traffic and in one video clip a kitten resting on the giant foot of a Stakhanovite soldier silkily makes her way round to the back of the statue to seek shade, a poignant usage for a now redundant image.

Despite the title of the park, these figures are truly forgotten and Young's shooting of them at dawn and dusk, with just the low whistle of the wind to remind us that we are looking not at a photograph but a moving image, illustrate vividly the fact that these eerie statues are as lifeless as the ideology which brought them into being.

Eastside Projects and *mima*

www.cornerhouse.org/careyyoung

Exhibition open:
Sat 5 February - Sun 20 March 2011
Galleries 2 & 3

Opening Times:
Mon: Closed
Tue - Sat: 12.00 - 20.00
Sun: 12.00 - 18.00

Cornerhouse, 70 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 5NH. Information: 0161 200 1500