



### **Peter Burns – The Living Eye**

Peter Burns is a young Dublin artist whose reputation received a deserved boost in the Futures 12 show at the RHA in 2012. He has studied both sculpture and painting and in addition to 15 paintings there are about 40 small, brightly coloured sculptures of pink fleshy heads, fabulous beasts and sundry exotica. Burns's artistic realm embraces the grotesque and the fantastical. The paintings contain references to art history, literature and myth. The grotesqueries are rendered playful by the lightness of the colours used, and the humour of the tiny

throwaway details. Lies Upon Sleepers, his take on Fusell's Nightmare, is a macabre exception. There is a density of incident in a lot of the work that suggests Hieronymus Bosch – and a clear link between Burns's Demesne and The Garden of Earthly Delights. The self-portrait of the artist bestriding the mountains in Nemesis is surely Gulliver's reincarnation. These connections shouldn't be overstated: Burns's work is original and full of humour.

**John P O'Sullivan**

Hillsboro Fine Art; Mon-Fri: 10.30am-6pm; Sat: 10.30am-3.30pm