

Press view: 11.30am -1pm Friday 28 November 2008  
Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art



Charles Avery

*Untitled (Duculi) from Untitled (Diagram of the Plane of the Gods) 2006*

Collection Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh.

Purchased with assistance from the Iain Paul Fund, 2007

## **THE ISLANDERS: AN INTRODUCTION**

### **CHARLES AVERY**

**29 November 2008 – 15 February 2009**

**SCOTTISH NATIONAL GALLERY OF MODERN ART, 75 Belford Road, Edinburgh,  
EH4 3DR**

**Telephone 0131 6246 6200; recorded information 0131 332 2266**

[www.nationalgalleries.org](http://www.nationalgalleries.org)

*Admission free*

*Sponsored by the Friends and by the Patrons of the National Galleries of Scotland*

*The Islanders: An Introduction has been organised by Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art, London.*

An exhibition by one of the most creative and thought-provoking Scottish artists of the last decade invites you on an expedition to an imaginary island. *The Islanders: An Introduction* is the latest instalment in an epic four year project to describe life on an island created by the artist Charles Avery. Using texts, drawings, installations and sculpture Avery has detailed the landscape, customs, and culture of his island, creating a challenging space for philosophical inquiry.

*The Islanders: An Introduction* will bring together the project so far, including several new works which will be shown in Scotland for the first time. Among these will be a large-scale sculptural installation, which was purchased by the National Galleries of Scotland in 2007. This sculpture depicts one of the most striking features of Avery's invented world - a motley group of deities,

who live on a wasteland called *The Plane of the Gods*. This is the Island's most popular tourist attraction and is home to the erect and threatening *August Snakes*. Visitors to the exhibition will also discover mysterious landscapes such as the *Eternal Forest*, where the mythical beast the Noumenon is rumoured to live. Other exhibits include a large taxidermy sculpture of a fearsome *Ridable*, a magnificent specimen of the islands wildlife and the bitterly disgusting, but ruinously addictive gin-soaked pickled eggs which are sold in the island's marketplace.

Inspired by his upbringing on the island of Mull - and by time spent in Rome, and Hackney Avery's work has its roots in figures as diverse as William Blake, Joseph Beuys, Joseph Kosuth, Jorge Luis Borges, Ludwig Wittgenstein and P.G. Wodehouse. Once complete, Avery plans for his Island project to be encapsulated in several large, leather-bound encyclopaedic volumes.

Charles Avery was born in Oban in 1973 and is based in London. In 2007, he was selected with five other artists to represent Scotland at the 52nd Venice Biennale, as part of the *Scotland and Venice* exhibition. In 2003 he was one of four finalists in the *Award for Italian Art*, shown in that year's Venice Biennale. He has recently been selected for the forthcoming TATE Triennial in 2009. Following its exhibition at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, *The Islanders: An Introduction* will tour to Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam.

*The Islanders: An Introduction* is organised in collaboration with Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art. A book published by Parasol unit will accompany the exhibition, with contributions by Nicolas Bourriaud, Tom Morton and Ziba de Weck Ardan.

**For further information on the exhibition, or images, please call the  
National Galleries Press Office on 0131 624 6325/ 332/ 314**

**[pressoffice@nationalgalleries.org](mailto:pressoffice@nationalgalleries.org)**  
**[www.nationalgalleries.org](http://www.nationalgalleries.org)**