



Paul McCarthy, *Painter*, 1995,
Performance, installation, video, photographs,
Photo by Karen McCarthy/Damon McCarthy © Paul McCarthy
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth

'Painter' and The Studio

Paul McCarthy and the Myth of the Artist

The Dean Gallery, 75 Belford Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3DR

17 October 2009 - 14 February 2010

www.nationalgalleries.org

Admission Free

This winter, a display at the Dean Gallery will examine how art institutions present the figure of the artist. *'Painter' and The Studio* will contrast the Gallery's own re-creation of a studio of sculptor Eduardo Paolozzi with the video work *Painter* (1995), a deliberately provocative artwork by American artist Paul McCarthy (b.1945).

Painter shows the grotesque figure of the artist at work, taking a comic and savage look at myths of artistic creativity and the art-world: a self-obsessed painter waiting for inspiration in his studio, labouring on the canvas, holding narcissistic meetings with an art dealer, and self-important curators.

Images of artists in their studio have a long tradition in art history, spanning the Renaissance to Romanticism and beyond. In picturing themselves at work, artists often created flattering and dramatic portraits, intended to reflect a particular self-image. Since the 1960s, these self-images have been increasingly questioned. While art criticism exposed clichés and stock phrases, artists themselves attacked and criticised old-fashioned artistic stereotypes. Paul McCarthy is one of the most influential of these artists. With a traditional background in painting, McCarthy made his name with performance art, mocking traditional artistic ideas.

McCarthy's piece is shown next to the Dean Gallery's own 'Paolozzi Studio'. This display is an educational stage-set, exhibiting the generous donation of Scottish artist Eduardo Paolozzi (1924-2005), and is one of our most popular and successful displays. By contrasting the 'Studio' presentation with McCarthy's critique, *'Painter' and The Studio* casts a second glance at how art galleries present the making of art.

Paul McCarthy (b. 1945, USA) lives and works in California. Recent solo exhibitions include Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2008); Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2006); Haus der Kunst, Munich (2005); Whitechapel Gallery, London (2005); Tate Liverpool (2003). Recent Group Exhibitions include MoMA Museum of Modern Art, New York; Hamburger Bahnhof Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin; Barbican Art Gallery, London; J.Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles.

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