

Sharon Thomas- *Tales of Shiney-Shiney*

By Lacey, S. (October 22, 2009)

[http://www.artrabbit.com/all/events/event/15463/sharon thomas tales of shiney shiney](http://www.artrabbit.com/all/events/event/15463/sharon%20thomas%20tales%20of%20shiney%20shiney)



Image: *The Clown, Ripe for the Picking (Band of Brothers)*. (2006) Oil on board

A young Glasgow-based artist brings her unique blend of historical painting and folk-lore to Oxford - and her own interpretation of the English rural landscape.

In her first exhibition since her major solo show in the Museum of Religious Art in Denmark, Sharon Thomas' new paintings promise an intriguing journey into a rural world that's both endearingly familiar and unsettlingly eccentric.

Her pre-occupation with folk lore, local rites and customs are played out in a kind of visual story-telling that unpicks a metaphorical world, inter-woven with the fabulous yarns of art history, popular culture and literary tradition, following a line of enquiry that doesn't necessarily have a happy ending or a neat conclusion. She looks to historical painting and favourite stories, passed on via the spoken word, throughout generations, such as those told to her by her mother during her childhood in rural Cheshire - creating a grand topography of 'truthful' realities. Illusory and half-remembered local English characters and places merge into one nostalgic landscape that comments on Romanticism - a great tool of political exploitative power.

Sharon Thomas trained at The Glasgow School of Art and The New York Academy of Figurative Art, and was the Sainsbury's scholar at The British School at Rome. She lives and works in Glasgow.

Gallery open Mon-Sat 11-4pm

Monday 1st-21st November, The North Wall Arts Centre Gallery, South Parade, Oxford, OX2 7NN, 01865 319 450
www.thenorthwall.com