

Rodeo Oracle

The Cube Space, The LAB (9 December 2011-7 January 2012.)

Aoibheann Greenan's solo work, Rodeo Oracle centres on the ideological debate surrounding the issue of indigenous whaling in the Pacific Northwest. Close reading of this dispute reveals a primarily Western paternalistic perspective which denies indigenous tribes their own voice. In a similar manner Greenan's work filters indigenous culture through the Western gaze, though to such a heightened degree that a parody of the latter is constructed. Clichéd pop-cultural tropes such as the whale-tale and the tee-pee are conflated into a monumental structure, a caricature of Western hegemony. An album of mainstream chart-toppers reinterpreted through panpipes plays from a speaker within the monument. Upon rounding the structure it is revealed as a facade, reminiscent of an ephemeral cinema advertisement. Pseudo-merchandise in the form of printed t-shirts further undermine its superficial posturing.