

theguardian

Saturday April 14 -
Friday April 20 2007

guide

Apeing around

**The second coming of
Arctic Monkeys**



● **Do Not Refreeze** Manchester



A revealing survey of photography from the other side of the Berlin Wall that was effectively "frozen out" of western art history by the cold war. Few of these names are familiar over here, yet the work overall is full of gritty cultural confidence and humanistic insight. Struggling in the former East Germany under the ever watchful surveillance of the secret police, figures such as Sibylle Bergemann (work pictured), Helga Paris and Ursula Arnold produced

work that now can be compared to the classic social documentaries of their contemporaries Henri Cartier-Bresson, Robert Frank and Martin Parr. Working for the most part in atmospheric monochrome, social goings-on are cast in the looming shadow of the Iron Curtain, yet the redeeming quirks of everyday contingencies, individual personalities and the last salvation of private humour are ever present. **RC** *Cornerhouse, to Jun 17*

● **Isabel Young** London



Snakes wrapped round blackened stumps, fish floating just beneath the surface of the water and monkeys seated on rotting onion stalks, Isabel Young's paintings are disquieting because

she situates her subjects in a dead land. Fascinated by 17th-century still life, Young's pictures of live animals are absorbed in a frozen atmosphere, as if they are trapped in no man's land. Many of her observations come from zoos, reptile houses and aquariums, places in which animals are on display, and there is a certain theatrical quality to the pictures, as if these creatures are living a semi-existence, the props to a drama that is never realised. **JL** *Rockwell, ES, Sat 14 to May 6*

● **Transcience** Derby

Robert Priseman paints uninhabited interiors that appear to be haunted by moments of undefined trauma. His techniques tend towards photorealist precision, with all movement apparently petrified. His historical mentors are painters of atmospheric transfixion – Vermeer, Hopper, Derby's very own Joseph Wright – and his subjects tend to be sites of transitional drama – pristine hospital corridors, looming stairwells, operating theatres, mortuaries – places, as the artist himself puts it, "where life and death are in close proximity to one another". Natural light is



banished, as is any hint of social reassurance. On entering Priseman's echoing perspectives, you are left utterly on your own. The artist knows what each of us has felt on entering a hospital interior: is this what it all comes down to? Vulnerable flesh up against the clinical impersonality of mortality. **RC** *Derby Art Gallery, to Jun 17*

N NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Wildlife Photographer of the Year Print Sale

Sale of selected prints of winning images
Friday 20 – Sunday 22 April, 10.00 – 17.30

The Natural History Museum,
Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD
Tel: 020 7942 5000 www.nhm.ac.uk
South Kensington