

7 – 25 January 2007: Persistence Works
Private view 11th January 6:30-8:30pm

Oh, isn't celebrity a terrible thing, thank God
David Garratt

David Garratt spent 2007 sending his own signed photo and hand written letter to 1000 British based celebrities. Presented for the first time is the collection of hundreds of replies and autographs he received including yeast based advice from Brian Blessed and a jumper from Terry 'Eurovision' Wogan.

In an age in which anyone can become a celebrity the exhibition takes a light-hearted look at the relationship between the fan and the celebrity and asks the question do you love to hate celebrity or hate to love it? During 2007 the artist religiously wrote to 1000 celebrities and included a signed photo of himself encouraging the celebrity to do an autograph swap. By playing the role of a fan and celebrity the boundaries between the two blur to question the role of the famous in British society.

The replies show the sometimes funny and frequently desperate public image of celebrity but hand written letters from the likes of Rolf Harris and gifts like a cookbook from Antony Worrall-Thompson unearth the genuine likeable characters from the nations icon's.

Also included in the solo show is 'The gospel according to Jeremy Kyle', a collection of watercolours that showcase slogans and advice from daytime TV's cult figure. The ITV show has a daily audience of 1.5 million but has been criticised as a 'human form of bear-baiting'¹. He has been claimed as a saviour of countless relationships and the framed watercolours bring together some of his most 'biblical' sayings to date.

David Garratt has exhibited both nationally and internationally and his first solo show opens at Persistence Works, Sheffield, on January 7 running until January 25th.

Contact David Garratt by calling 07952318521 or e-mail davegarratt2001@yahoo.co.uk

¹ Manchester District Judge Alan Berg, 24/9/07