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# HIVE GALLERY PRESS RELEASE

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**HIVE GALLERY**  
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## SOME LITTLE ARTISTS LITTLE ARTISTS

14 June - 27 July 2008 Private View 13 June

The Little Artists are John Cake and Darren Neave. Cake and Neave's practice considers cultural identity, branding and what it means to be a contemporary artist through adopting the concept of the figure of the artist as a logo, a brand name, a lifestyle choice. They created and became 'The Little Artists' brand. Their work has been exhibited across the UK, Europe and in New York. This is the first time a selection of their practice has been seen together.

The selection of work in '**Some Little Artists**' is wide-ranging from *Art Crazy Nation* - Their infamous recreations in Lego of Modern / Contemporary iconic art and artists, to *SmurfNet* - recent works that include London Tube maps obliterated with Tippex and the stations replaced with stickers of Smurf heads, referencing and identifying with the actions, strategies and mythology of the deceased German artist Martin Kippenberger. Other works include *Concealing Claire/Every Little Artist Helps* - Toilet roll doll sculptures that take Grayson Perry's transvestite alter-ego's dresses as their starting point and go up to 3 metres high; *Lick Your Selves* - Paintings made from melting their sculptural ice lolly version of Marc Quinn's 'Self', a casting of his head in his own blood; *Contemporary Artists Play Pictionary* - Drawings produced by famous artists when challenged by The Little Artists to a game of Pictionary.

This exhibition allows for a reflective look at the core themes throughout all Cake and Neave's work: aggressive branding, cultural identity, contemporary art/artists. It also gives an insight into their latest work *SmurfNet*, core to this is the 'Smurf', the iconic blue character, created by Peyo in Belgium 50 years ago. They have become an image understood world-wide but whose name is different in every language. (Schtroumpfs - French, Y Smyrffs - Welsh, Schlümpfe - German etc.) As in the cartoon or comic-strip, when speaking the word 'Smurf' can be used to replace a word in a sentence but understanding is not lost. Pieces in this new body of work include paintings that are actual London tube maps that have had the station names and wording covered with Tippex/Liquid Paper and replaced with collaged 'Smurf' head stickers. Progressive maps have further meticulous obliteration; the coloured tube lines and then the surrounding blank paper, resulting in a textured monochrome surface - negating the function of this 'design classic'.



*Boing, Boing! It's The Little Artists (Enebriated Emin Enraged)*



*Smurf Net Level 3, Courtesy Cake + Neave/The Little Artists*



*Concealing Claire (Sugar and Spice dress),  
Courtesy Cake + Neave/The Little Artists*



*Lick Your Self  
2005 Frozen fruit flavoured mixture and wooden stick*

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**For further information and images please contact:** Patrick Murphy  
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### **About the Artists**

John Cake and Darren Neave have been working together since 1994 and under the name of The Little Artists since 1996. They found notoriety with their '*Art Crazy Nation*' series - a huge body of work involving Lego and the recreation of modern iconic artworks and artists in a relatively large, small-scale art gallery.

Their work has been exhibited across the UK, Europe and in New York. An award-winning commission by the Walker Gallery in Liverpool saw their cartoon character identities and brand as the face and inspiration for the 'Big Art' children's gallery.

Cake and Neave have been selected to take part in the first Tatton Park Biennial in May 2008, curated by Danielle Arnaud and Jordan Kaplan from the commissioning group Parabola.

Forthcoming Solo shows include Galerie Markus Winter in Berlin, and 20-21 Visual Arts Centre, Scunthorpe in 2009.

Recent solo exhibitions include the Fishmarket Gallery, Northampton and Kulczyk Foundation, Poznan.

They have also featured extensively in group shows across Europe including; Space/Galerie Priestor, Bratislava (curated by Juraj Cerny), Galerie Good Friday, Brussels, Krinzinger, Vienna and The Kunsthall, Bergen (curated by Dr Sabine Dorscheid).

Website [www.littleartist.co.uk](http://www.littleartist.co.uk)

### **About HIVE**

The Hive Gallery is a new contemporary gallery situated within Elsecar Heritage Centre in Barnsley, South Yorkshire. It features a diverse rolling programme of contemporary visual art. The HIVE programme ranges from supporting emerging contemporary artists to exhibiting the work of nationally and internationally known artists.

HIVE is part of a gallery and studio project created by Creative Barnsley, a social enterprise which aims to network and promote the creative sector in Barnsley and South Yorkshire. We have received invaluable support and funding from Creative Exchange: South Yorkshire which works in partnership with communities and the Creative and Digital Industries to build the creative economy in South Yorkshire and beyond. Visit [www.creativebarnsley.co.uk](http://www.creativebarnsley.co.uk) to find out more.

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