



Artscene

The Flower People Curated by Jo Langford 6 - 29 May The Physics Room Christchurch

A Lilliputian world is always going to be a touch autocratic. It is after all a sort of urban planning arcadia and demonstrative tutelage on living conditions all wrapped into one. So with a hint of forbearance I can't help but pick up a reference to the tropical city of Aldous Huxley's novel, Brave New World, in Jo Langford's new offering.

Offering? Yes it does seem a little sacrificial. A sort of sandcastle at the tide line kind of feeling. With its yellow petals and artificial green leaves contrasting against the broke-back depression of Spartan MDF housing developments, Flower People is quite the provocative gesture. And with autumn quickly relaying its merry ass out of town I can't help but see the vibrant yellow flowers and green leaves as some sort of artificial hula garnish welcoming winter sojourn fantasies.

With this kind of appeasing contingency plan, I'm returning to Huxley's Brave New World. – And with all its talk of pneumatic sex machines, primitivism and tropical lust why wouldn't you? For it's that sort of generic tropical charm, the congenial and easy-going variety that the Flower People so wistfully induces. Autocratically, I suppose we can be forgiven for a sort of torpid lust of denial and self-accountability. And yet, I still can't help but get the feeling that some other generic trope of sunshine and enthusiasm may yet surprise us.

The Soda Squirrel

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