

## Humiliation vs. Stereo

It's like a test of the IQ in a subculture kind of way...



Image courtesy of The Physics Room

Michael Morley & Chris Heaphy

Until 3 July

The Physics Room & Jonathan Smart Gallery

The Chris Heaphy show is quite old now, but it suddenly occurred to me to pair it up with Michael Morley's paintings of turntables. According to the blurbs, the trick to them is the silent listening - the tunes they supposedly play. It's like a test of the IQ in a subculture kind of way. Hell, I haven't got a clue. I must be humiliated - which is precisely the point. This intelligentsia taste-bud neurosis could be ever so admirable if it wasn't for their largeness as paintings.

Across the road, Chris Heaphy's work is all about admiring the trope of painting. Do you realise he's almost painted a perfect black? Stereo is the name of the show and it's about that dull. You know how HIFI talk is always accompanied by technophobe boredom. Have a listen to Jon try and explain the paintings. I don't care how easily the "horizontal stripe" allows the viewer access, these are exercises in high market taste, perfect for the decor of the upwardly mobile.

It'd be interesting to see Morley and Heaphy paired up in a boozy, cross-pollinating brawl. The ensuing Spartan purity vs. Rock-Star dirt debacle would no doubt be dragged down by an over-theorised exercise mollifying the debacle as a booze up regeneration theory in which the ruling story line subsumes and normalises all.

**Jkasper**

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