



Lockhurst by artist Brian McKenzie features in Unreal Estates at the Homefinders Agency in Dalston



Untitled by Korean artist Anna Jung Seo



A property seeker studies the exhibits in the Estate Agency

Exhibition that sees a house as a home

Hackney residents are used to browsing estate agents' windows for unaffordable dream homes - but one Dalston agency is offering a more artistic view of the current housing market.

Bridget Galton hears how an art exhibition in a Dalston Estate agency depicts property as personal spaces rather than monetary assets

Unreal Estates is a group exhibition of newly commissioned painting and writing adorning the walls of a working estate agents in Kingsland Road.

Curated by Hackney-based British Burmese artist Amanda Lwin, the show features six painters producing new work in collaboration with a fiction writer: to tell stories about the listed properties at the Homefinders agency.

Hannah Bays, Brian McKenzie and Anna Jung Seo are among the artists exploring ideas such as 'airspace' - the notion that interiors are now becoming homogenised due to our fascination with property lust on apps like Instagram and Pinterest.

The commodification of

housing and the trend for property as investment rather than a place where lives are lived are subtly explored in work that reasserts the emotions, intrigues and stories to be found in domestic settings - reaffirming the basic human need of a house as shelter; a personal space rather than a monetary asset.

But rather than simplistically demonising the profiteers of the housing crisis, the text and paintings examine the idea that everyone is complicit, from mortgage providers and property agents to homeowners and even renters.

One of the writers taking part is Portals of London, a website that poses as a local

history blog, to reveal a series of science-fiction-cum-ghost stories about interdimensional gateways hidden in London.

It developed a cult following after its post Under river about the The Woolwich Foot Tunnel went viral.

Lwin comments: "Unreal Estates examines the commodification of housing and its resulting aesthetic homogenisation. Uncovering hidden secrets behind closed doors, we are taken on a tour guided by some of the most exciting new painters and writers working in London today."

Unreal Estates runs from September 13 to October 13 at Homefinders Estate Agents, 146 Kingsland High Street, London E8.

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