

### *sugar-coated*

**15 July - 27 August 2006**

**Reception for the artists: 15 July 2006, 2pm - 4pm with performance at 2.30pm**

To sugar-coat is to transform the unappealing and uncomfortable into the appealing and comfortable; to deceive, albeit in a benign manner. Inevitably, the metaphorical 'bitter pill' is a disturbing or difficult subject matter, which is 'sweetened' by a mediator - in this case, the artist - and presented fit for public consumption. *sugar-coated* explores this 'sweetening' effect and exposes how contemporary artists deliver and package their ideas in often humorous and playful contexts.

*sugar-coated* presents new work by eleven visual artists from the United Kingdom and the United States: Jane Anderson, Peter Atha, Shaun Doyle & Mally Mallinson, David Ellis, Steven Lowery, Charlie Murphy, Andy Parker, Paul Tarragó, Jennet Thomas and Steven Wise.

The works included in the exhibition – consisting of installation, video, film, sculpture and photography – vary in subject matter, encompassing social commentary, existential angst, causality and subversive acts; namely subject matter equivalent to the metaphorical 'bitter pill'. These issues are, however, tempered by wit, satirical insight, and sardonic humour; re-contextualized and submitted to the viewer for further deliberation.

*sugar-coated* examines the relationships between artists, artworks and audiences, with particular emphasis on the artwork as a distraction from subject matter that is, at times, harsh and uncompromising, and often a reflection of the more absurd aspects of the world in which we live. The overarching aim of *sugar-coated* is to provide not one, but numerous, perspectives of how we deal with and compartmentalize – or sugar-coat – the vicissitudes of contemporary life.

- Ends -

**For images, interviews & more information contact Adelina on 01590 682260 x16 or [adelina@artsway.org.uk](mailto:adelina@artsway.org.uk)**

#### **Exhibition Related Events:**

**Performance: The Billy Bollox Book Club, Saturday 15 July, 2.30pm. Free**

A short but enlightening performance in ArtSway's main gallery space with Billy Bollox Book Club luminaries Eddie Farrell and sugar-coated artist Steven Lowery.

**Gallery Talk by artist Charlie Murphy: Saturday 22 July, 2pm. Free**

**Gallery Talk by artists Shaun Doyle and Mally Mallinson: Saturday 5 August, 2pm. Free**

Editor's Note: ArtSway is the contemporary visual arts centre in the New Forest facilitating the development of new works by artists and offering creative opportunities for audiences.

ArtSway is open Tuesday - Sunday 11am - 5pm. Admission is free.