

31 May - 9 July 2011

# RO BRADSHAW | PLEASE GOD, LET MY CHILDREN GROW AND LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER



'Hello sweetie!'

You can hear the awful croon across the room, a phrase so saccharine and cloying that its use conjures shrill fear in the listener. Or perhaps the phrase is whispered from underneath a cover of week old stubble and the collar of a drab trench-coat outside a school gate. The often over-exaggerated hand-wringing over that which lurks in the grass, waiting to strike at any unfortunate innocent, is given a technicolour outing in Ro Bradshaw's confectionary based work.

The strands of crystallised neckwear that could quite sweetly adorn the neck of a summer-frocked seven year old girl could just as easily be pulled tight to strangle her. The deadly duality is again touched upon in *Coke* where the illicit drug and the soft drink become inexplicably entwined by their seemingly matching material composition.

LOWER GALLERY

# JUSTIN SPIERS | CASTLELAND



Castleland sounds like the ideal place for a family vacation. Take the kids. Take the dog. Check out the amazing historical replica of Neuschwanstein! Of course, as Justin Spiers reminds us, some families don't even need to leave home to visit Castleland. Their eight foot steel fences replicate the medieval desire to keep the bad out and keep the good in.



Although, it is entirely plausible that Castleland isn't even a great place to visit. Physically anyway. Instead, it may suit a fleeting imaginary stopover, where banquet halls and jousting knights are crucial to the pleasure. It's hard to imagine a burnt out wasteland engendering much joy. Or an ode to one man's grandiose folly at the expense of people in need. Or even a certain mousey brand's onward march into every corner of the world.

DARK SIDE