

ANDIPA CONTEMPORARY

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SLINKACHU | CONCRETE OCEAN

Exhibition Dates: 3 March – 2 April 2011



Andipa Contemporary is delighted to announce a new solo exhibition **CONCRETE OCEAN** by renowned urban artist Slinkachu.

“...some twelve billion years ago the gods created the universe, including the [...] dinosaurs and such like, but after a while found these huge creatures rather tedious [...] Turning from gigantism to miniaturism, the gods then created little creatures on earth, including humans...” Shapiro & Bennett, *The Politics of Moralizing*, 2002.

In turn, Slinkachu, the arch miniaturist, has placed his 1:87 scale installations in a city that is, from the perspective of the Little People, a Concrete Ocean. Or is it also a concrete ocean from our perspective? We city-dwellers often feel that sense of being overwhelmed by the urban environment, we empathise with the vulnerability of the Little People – not least as they are abandoned by their maker either to be trodden underfoot by a careless passer-by or to startle a less careless one.

We laugh at their barely significant perspective on life, their diminutive world view and sharply reflect that perhaps ours is equally narrow and our lives are just as insignificant. Teetering on the edge of the metaphysical abyss, the dry, ironic wit draws us back to laughter. After all, a proud podgy man on a tennis ball in a puddle as big as a lake, who really thinks he is a god as he surveys the view and his pretty wife does not know that he has been entitled *The Last Resort*.

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Looking at these photographically recorded installations one has the impression of zooming in and zooming out. One feels close to the situation and distanced from it.

For the first time, Slinkachu has seemingly reversed his usual process: he has seemingly uprooted paving stones and parts of pavements and brought them into the gallery. The figures stick to these urban islands, oblivious that the boundaries of their world are so limited. Oblivious that they will float forever on the concrete ocean that is their (and our) home.

Concrete Ocean is the second solo exhibition of Slinkachu's work to be shown at Andipa Gallery and follows *Whatever Happened to the Men of Tomorrow* (2009), which focused on the relationship between an old, bald, Superman rejected by the city which once lauded him.

Andipa Gallery has been publishing Slinkachu's work and representing the artist since 2008.

The *Concrete Ocean* limited edition prints and installations will be released shortly before 2 March 2011.

For further press information and images please contact Rosa Attwood by email at press@andipa.com or by telephone +44 (0)20 7589 2371.

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Notes to Editors

Named as one of the leading figures in urban art by Patrick Nguyen and Stuart Mackenzie in *Beyond the Street* (2010), Slinkachu's works in *Concrete Ocean* affirm his position and follow the artist's internationally acclaimed *Little People Project* in 2008 and his first publication *Little People in the City. The street art of Slinkachu*, published by Boxtree (Pan MacMillan) (2009), with a foreword by author Will Self.

His participation in *Tunnel-228* underneath Waterloo Station produced by Punchdrunk and actor and Old Vic Artistic Director Kevin Spacey in 2009 preceded a highly successful exhibition *Extraordinary Measures* at Belsay Hall, Northumberland where he showed alongside Ron Mueck, Matt Collishaw and Mariele Neudecker during the summer of 2010, a show in which the artist took a humorous look "at the obsession we have with the day trip, that English hobby which often provokes the full range of emotions" and saw a record breaking 55,000 visitors. Recently his second publication, *Big Bad City*, was launched in Amsterdam by Lebowski Publishers in September 2010.

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Exhibition information

Exhibition Dates: 3 March – 2 April 2010

Andipa Gallery, 162 Walton Street, London, SW3 2JL

Tel: 020 7589 2371 / www.andipa.com

Opening times: Monday to Friday 9:30am – 6pm, Saturday 11am – 6pm

Closest tube stations: Knightsbridge and South Kensington

Acoris Andipa, Director of the gallery, is available for interviews.

Preview 2 March 2011, 6.30 to 9pm

About Andipa Contemporary

Following extensive refurbishment of the premises, Andipa Gallery launched Andipa Contemporary in late 2010 as a platform to show fresh, innovative and aesthetically stimulating work by new contemporaries from around the world.

Andipa Contemporary draws on the knowledge, experience and resources of Andipa to provide an exciting programme of exhibitions and events. Collecting contemporary art is a very unique experience and we welcome both those new to contemporary art and existing collectors to come into the gallery to discuss your preferences in a warm and open atmosphere.

Andipa Gallery is a specialist dealer in modern and contemporary masters ranging from Matisse, Picasso and Warhol, through to Damien Hirst and Banksy. Based in Knightsbridge for over 40 years, the gallery has a long-established reputation of providing clients with a high level of service in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere.

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