

Excerpt from 'Artists Prompting Creative Capacity'

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The utilisation of a wider variety of media, to explore related ideas about structures and their role in coding sense perceptions, is taken up by Angela McHarrie who's bent for a Magritte like placement of objects and surreal distortion of scale fuses her work with that intrigue we have for the seemingly absurd.ⁱ

The ambiguity or uncertainty of measurement, particularly as related to the idea of dimension and planes (recalling the cubist interest in the fourth dimension), is evident in McHarrie's wooden ruler sculptures *Dimensions Variable*; one looped like an inverted apostrophe or perched like a tailed number six and the other formed by two rulers with one twisting upwards to form a triangle and the other slithering from a bracket like oblong up onto the base and through the triangle. Depending on where one moved the geometry shifted and the rulers seemed to extend into ideas of limitlessness, however the former dropped into a gourd like capacity suggesting fruit or vine like metaphors, and the latter ideas of union. Additionally the interplay between triangle and oblong in the latter suggested a double axis. Her two paintings – 'apple on a table' and 'pear on a table' – though constructed around ambiguity of scale (the distortion which occurs when we look through a window) featured objects which shifted the possible meanings of both series towards variations on the theme of masculine/feminine and arcadia/transformation. The organic joined or perched on the inanimate is curiously static and erotic yet ready for decay. Nonetheless there was enough improbability to the images and dimensions in all of her work for a range of meanings to suggest themselves.

ⁱ (Like Alice in Wonderland who observes) "... while playing croquet in the garden observes that she is unable to figure out if there are any rules to the game and if there is, if anyone is abiding by them. This sentiment for me is pertinent when thinking about McHarrie's work." –see Peake, Clare. Artist In Profile: Angela McHarrie, published in *tete-a-tete*, issue five 2010.