

***Personal Allegories and Other Caprices* by Neale Stratford**

**Colour Factory Gallery, 409 – 429 Gore St, Fitzroy, + 61 3 94198756**

**Opening Thursday August 4, 6 – 8pm**

**To be opened by Rodney Forbes, Director of Gippsland Centre for Art & Design, Monash University**

**Artists talk Saturday August 13 at 2pm**

**Exhibition dates: August 5 – 27, 2011**



*Dreams of reason brings forth monsters, 2010*



*Consequences of helping Judith, 2010*

Neale Stratford casts himself in the role of writer, producer, director and lead actor in *Personal Allegories and Other Caprices*. Using action figures, Stratford expresses aspects of his life through images that are at once epic, intimate and compelling. He introduces us to characters and leads us through scenes that are innately familiar, having been drawn in large part from popular cinema and art history, but their psychological import seems to extend further and deeper than these cultural references would imply. This is in part due to examining his own identity after a diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome, which has led him to explore the internal psyche, and in turn, tap into the wider collective unconscious. As a result his work exudes something of the greater human condition, while at once speaking very precisely of the artist's own life story.

Neale is currently a MFA candidate at Gippsland Centre for Art & Design. His recent achievements include the 2011 *Winner of the Palais Theatre Management Artist Support Award* for his work in the Linden Postcard Show, at the Linden Centre for Contemporary Art, and the CCP/Colour Factory Award for an emerging artist in 2008.

<http://www.nealestratford.daportfolio.com/>

<http://www.colourfactory.com.au/gallery/>