

Solitude in Public

Nina Mae Fowler

My subjects are appropriated from films, magazines and the internet. I remove them from their situation and place them in new contexts, often isolating them to emphasise the loneliness of life under media scrutiny. My drawings emphasise how contemporary society's ideas about fame, power, desire and success are at odds with the actual lives lived inside this goldfish bowl. It seems that the inherent contradiction of the fame dream is that being loved by millions does not equate to feeling loved, a situation which too often leads to personal and career destruction.



'Marx had famously denounced religion as the opiate of the people, now it was Fame that was the opiate of the people; except the Church of Fame carried with it not even the huckster's promise of salvation, heaven. It's pantheon of saints was a hall of distorting mirrors.' Joyce Carol Oates, *Blonde*, p 512

ABOVE: Nina Fowler, *Small (rear-view)*, oil-based pencil on paper, carborundum, wood, glass, 12x25x5cm