If I told you the truth I’d be lying

an exhibition by

Stephen Rosin

13 October to 4 November 2011

Absa Gallery, Absa Towers North, 161 Main Street, Johannesburg 011 350 5139
Absa will host award-winning artist, Stephen Rosin, in his first solo show entitled ‘If I told you the truth I’d be lying’. Rosin was the winner of the 2009 Absa L’Atelier art competition.

His solo exhibition will be held at the Absa Gallery in Johannesburg from 13 October to 4 November 2011.

Says Rosin: “My work purposefully mocks the status quo, utilising materials and objects inexorably linked to the subjects they poke fun at. The intention for the work is that it acts as a vehicle to expose this stage show, where manufactured reality and engineered consent have become the norm. By using satire and humour, I attempt to present the ‘truth’ as the lie that it is, hopefully breaking down its perceived and accepted image to show something of the real one lurking beneath.”

Absa Art and Museum Curator Dr Paul Bayliss says: “It is great to welcome Stephen back to Absa since he won the Absa L’Atelier in 2009 and to be able to host his first solo exhibition.”

Rosin was born in 1975 and graduated from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in 1999 with a B.Tech degree (cum laude) in Fine Arts and has been included in numerous exhibitions and the Absa L’Atelier art awards since 2007. He also has collections of his artwork around the country as well as international private collections in France, Iran, Norway and New Zealand to name a few.

‘If I told you the truth I’d be lying’ will be held at the Absa Gallery at Absa Towers North, 161 Main Street, Johannesburg, from 13 October to 04 November 2011. The exhibition will be open from 08:30 to 16:00 daily and entrance is free. Members of the public are requested to bring their ID books along for parking and entry purposes.
Austerity Soap Co. (2011)
Pencil and pastel on antique copying paper
Varies
R 6 000.00
B.E.G: The ‘Virtue’ of Central Banking (2011)
Inverted vinyl print of three of the alphabetical designations of the Federal Reserve Banks in the United States of America, INC., on light boxes, rope lights, metal
85 cm X 255 cm
R 99 999.99
**Much Madness is Divinest Sense (2010)**
Hand-cut book, damask base, acrylic display case
Varies
R 4 500.00
The Real “Real War” (2010)
Hand-cut book, pen ink, damask base, acrylic display case
Varies
R 4 500.00
Exploded Viewpoint (2011)
Newsprint, pencil and beeswax
129 cm X 97 cm
R 15 000.00
Filthy Rich, Dirt Poor (2011)
Hand-carved, rebranded laundry soap bars, damask base and clear acrylic display case
Varies
P.O.A.
Hypnotized and Mesmerized (2010)
Ink, Gouache and pen on antique ledger paper
38 cm X 32 cm
R 2 800.00
Sold
It Takes the Left Wing and the Right Wing to make the Fascist Bird Fly (2011)
Ink and Gouache on antique ledger paper
46.2 cm X 34.5 cm
R 3 800.00
Sold
Love is Like War, Easy to Start, Hard to End (2011)  
Faux Suede, Military Dress Jacket, Toy Soldiers, Wood  
Varies  
R 16 000.00  
Option
*The Master and his Eyes (2010)*
Ink, gouache, pen and pencil on antique ledger paper
34.5 cm X 50.5 cm
R 3 800.00
**Infantry/Nursary Series (2009)**
Pen and gouache on 13th edition Encyclopaedia Britannica pages
Varies
R 12 000.00
Sold
This is Premium Bullshit! (2011)
Pencil and gouache on antique copying paper
57.5 cm X 33 cm
R 3 500.00
Sold
A Police State is cool if you are the State Police#1 (2010)
Ink, gouache and pencil on antique ledger paper
Varies
R 7 000.00
Welcome to the Age of Austerity (2011)
Rebranded laundry soap, second hand wash stand, second hand porcelain basin, soap dish
Varies
R 20 000.00
Where the Carcase is, there shall be Bankers gathered together (2011)
Pen on 13th edition Encyclopaedia Britannica ‘Finance’ page
41 cm X 34.5 cm
R 2 800.00
Sold
The Masters’ Eyes do more Work than both his Hand’s (2010)
Ink, gouache, pen and pencil on antique ledger paper
50.5 cm X 35 cm
R 3 800.00
The Wonderous Snake Oil
Salesman had them all
Mesmerized (2010)
Ink, gouache and pencil on antique ledger paper
50.5 cm X 35 cm
R 3 800.00
The Psychotropic Twins (2010)
Ink, gouache, pen and pencil on antique ledger paper
Varies
R 7 000.00
You can have the Shirt off my back, Punk! (2010-2011)
1,000 tea-stained, folded fiat currency notes, wood, postage sealing wax, used .44 magnum cartridge
183 cm x 110.5 cm
R 25 000.00
Sold
A Thief becomes a Gentleman Stealing (2010)
Ink, gouache, pen and pencil on antique ledger paper
50.5 cm X 35 cm
R 3 800.00
Sold
The Backbone of the Status Quo is Engineered Consent (2011)
Cast resin vertebrae with hand-carved text, cast resin ‘billiken’ good luck charms, radio headset, microphone, bell jar stand, damask base, wood
Varies
R 18 000.00
*The Queen and her Prerogative of Perfection (2010)*
Ink, gouache, pen and pencil on antique ledger paper
Varies
R 7 000.00
A Thief becomes a Gentleman when his Stealing has made him Rich (2011)
Tiffany’s jewellery case lining, silk suit lining, bespoke pinstripe waistcoat, antique collars, wood, antique frames
Varies
R 22 000.00
Sold
Same Shit, Different Politician
Three charts showing the executive apartments of government, pencil and pastel on antique copying paper
Varies
R 8 000.00
Le Bankster Internationale (2010)
Ink, gouache and pencil on antique ledger paper
50.5 cm X 35 cm
R 3 800.00
Sold
Empire State (2010)
13th edition Encyclopaedia Britannica page, fiat dollar currency, gouache and pen
39 cm X 31.4 cm
R2 800.00
Stephen Rosin (b. 1975)
Graduated from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in 1999 with a B.Tech degree (cum laude) in Fine Art.

Exhibitions
2011
• *Site-specific Land Art, Plettenberg Bay*

2010
• *Engineering dissent, Alfredo Salazar Art Projects, Paris*
• Design Indaba, Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town

2009
• Top Ten Absa L’Atelier Show, Aardklop National Arts Festival, Potchefstroom
• Absa L’Atelier Finalist exhibition, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg
• *Tattoo, Knysna Fine Art Gallery, Knysna*

2008
• Top Ten Absa L’Atelier Show, Aardklop National Arts Festival, Potchefstroom
• Absa L’Atelier Finalist Exhibition, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg

2007
• Absa L’Atelier Finalist Exhibition, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg

Awards
2008
• Top Ten Finalist, Absa L’Atelier art competition, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg

Residencies
2009
• Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris

Studies
1999
• B.Tech(Fine Art), Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth

Collections
• Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg
• Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum, Port Elizabeth
• Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University collection, Port Elizabeth

Private collections in France, Iran, South Africa, Norway, New Zealand, The United Kingdom and Australia