

# Cutting out the middleman

## ART REVIEW

Why Stop Now?

★★★★☆

For the legions of thirty-somethings brought up on Ivor Wood's Paddington Bear animations, Hum-drum (pictured) should strike a chord. This video installation, included in recent Dún Laoghaire graduate Vera Klute's exhibition, is reminiscent of Wood's famous TV series. Just like the 1970s animations featuring Michael Bond's bear from darkest Peru, Hum-drum uses cut-out cardboard sets and props to great effect.

But the video installation takes things a step further. Here the white gallery space is transformed into the set itself. The viewer sits in a chair in front of a cardboard TV screen (affixed to a real one), beside a cut-out lamp, with cartoonish bookcases painted onto surrounding walls (think *The Simpsons*' front room and you get the idea). A cartoon on the TV depicts a 'real' girl going about her day-to-day chores: she cleans with a cardboard Hoover and lounges on a cardboard sofa. Deliciously

tongue-in-cheek, it's impossible to view this kooky work without a smile crossing your face.

A second installation by the artist is also on view at The Lab. You can't quibble with its title: *Mind The Mucus* holds all the promise of its cartoonish neighbour. But it's a different kettle of fish entirely. It certainly shares the same quirky humour, yet has perhaps a greater poignancy. Exploring the human body, this video piece takes us on a journey of sorts through our internal organs. Don't expect to find any anatomical accuracy here. The animation takes us from beating hearts to intestines via mechanical cogs and tubes of maggots. It says much about the fragility of our health and our thirst for self-pollution. The joy of Klute's work is her lively sense of fun: here is an artist who has something important to say, yet also has the wherewithal to deliver her message with humour.

*Roz Britton*

Until Oct 28, The Lab, Foley Street D1,  
Mon to Sat, 10am to 5pm, free.  
Tel: (01) 222 7848.

