

BOB GODFREY

SATIRE *SURREALISM* SEX

14 JULY – 22 AUGUST 2008

THE GALLERY, THE ARTS INSTITUTE AT BOURNEMOUTH

For many of his fans, the animation films of Australian-born, Academy Award winner Bob Godfrey are insightful, often hilarious satires of the essence of 'Britishness', so much so that he was awarded an MBE. Although he is best known in the UK for his hugely popular Roobarb and Henry's Cat series, Godfrey's internationally acclaimed, award-winning talents are expansive, ranging from humane, humorous tales of erotic obsessions to biting political satire and brilliantly simple series. Godfrey's career spans almost 60 years, moving between commercial and independent filmmaking, and his artistic work reflects both political and stylistic currents of these eventful decades.

Like many other animators, Godfrey's filmmaking involves copious developmental artworks and production materials. In addition to films and original painted cels on display, visitors have unprecedented access to the creative process of Bob Godfrey and his studio artists that culminates in his films.

The exhibition presents a thematic selection from the ARC Archive – satire, surrealism, sex – chosen from thousands of artefacts (drawings, sketches, storyboards, photographs, cutouts, documents, multilayer cels, production equipment). Many of the artworks are displayed to deliberately show their full size. Besides emphasising the artistic and artefact nature of the work, it reveals the animators' marks, numbers and scribbles not seen in the finished film.

Visitors will notice a common practice in animation filmmaking: the images in the films usually show only a reduced central framing of the production artwork on display, such as the Churchill drawing from *Know Your Europeans: The United Kingdom*. These insights into how the single frame animation filmmaking process works are enhanced by objects in display cases including some from Halas and Batchelor Studios, who Godfrey collaborated with on a number of films.

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Acknowledgements

All works courtesy of the Bob Godfrey Studio Collection and the Halas & Batchelor Collection held in the Animation Research Centre's ARC Archive, University College for the Creative Arts, Farnham, UK (www.ucreative.ac.uk/arc). Works credited to the collections may be subject to other copyright holders as yet unidentified.

Curator: Suzanne Buchan, Professor of Animation Aesthetics, ARC Director
Curatorial Assistants: Seymour Lavine, ARC Archive Education Officer and Aaron Wood

Gallery Officer text+work, the Gallery: Violet McClean
Designer: Sonja Stender
A special thanks to Josepha Sanna, Tom Marsh and Joe Barnes

Heartfelt thanks to Bob Godfrey and his family for their enduring commitment and support.

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