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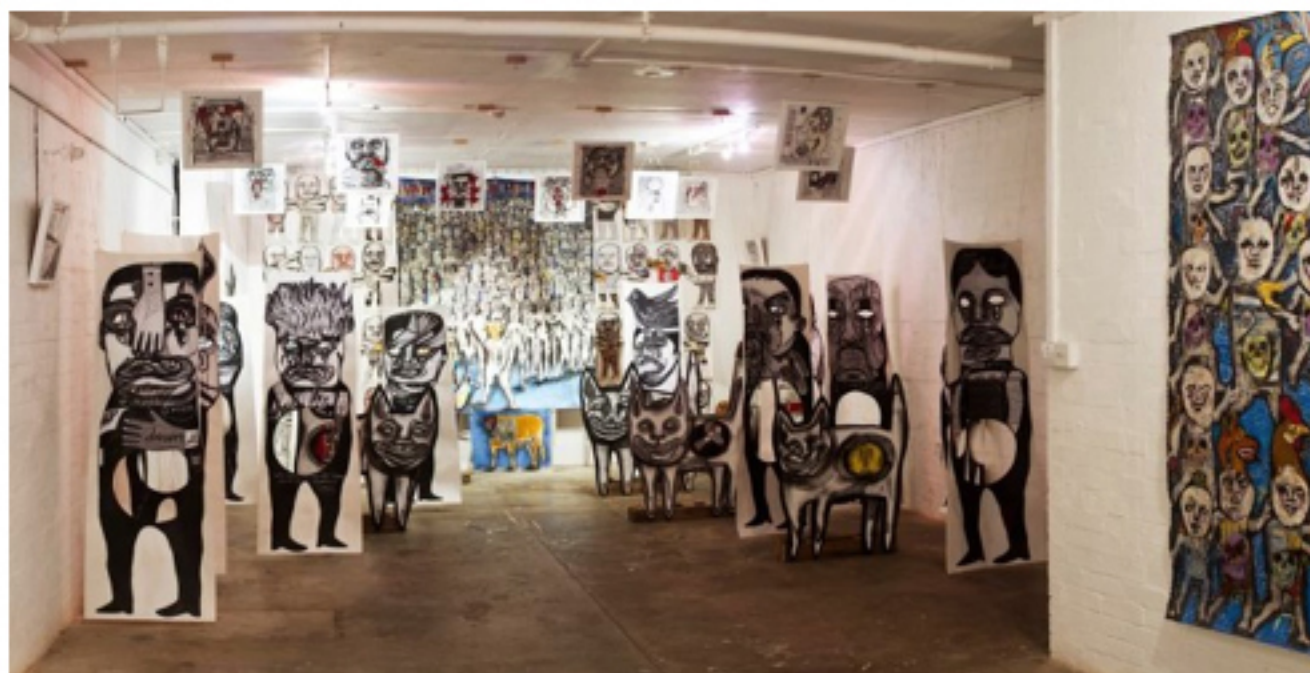
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The isolation of the overpopulation

per [Hundred Years Gallery](#) el dimecres, 14 / novembre / 2012 a les 14:17 ·

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This November, Hundred Years Gallery hosts an interesting exhibition by Jim Sanders. The artist presents "Now that the living outnumber the dead", an installation of paintings and drawings that think over the problem of overpopulation.

It is often said that there are more people alive today than have ever lived. According to the United Nations, the population of the planet reached seven billion in October, a figure that increases the fears that the population is expanding too fast.

That's the idea that permeates "Now that the living outnumber the dead". "With this exhibition I wish to transmit the idea of the knife-edge on which we live as a result of overpopulation" explains the artist. At the gallery's basement, Sanders creates an installation over-crowded with different characters portraying all the consequences of the overpopulation: the pressure on the environment, the finite resources, the social problems and loss of community, the isolation of the individual and the loss of belief systems and spirituality.

The imagery he creates is really intriguing and sometimes a little bit creepy. These figures represent the living but it seems they are suffering. According to the artist, "they are living but maybe not in the full sense of the word. It does seem they are suffering because they are lost, without direction". These characters show how the overpopulation increases the isolation of the individual and the loss of community. "Within big cities, such as London, it seems the more people there are the more isolated they become", explains Sanders. Some cats with an evil smile accompany the figures. Sanders has always used birds in his work "as a symbol of the soul, the imagination and creative freedom". For him, the cats are the antithesis to the birds, "they represent the suppressive forces of conventional society, business, money, avarice, arrogance, self-importance and greed, all the things that conspire against truth and beauty".

In his work, Sanders usually draws upon popular culture, world religions and personal mythology. In this exhibition, the central painting entitled "Nature Red in Tooth and Claw" shows a crowd of people gathered around the Golden Calf, a cult image that represented God in the Old Testament story. In the painting, the leader of the mass wears the head of the animal until becoming thus in an icon. Sanders explains that this picture "refers to our culture of Facebook, blogging and Twitter. First we had the false icons of celebrity, now people have become their own celebrities using the Internet".

Undoubtedly, an exhibition that will make us meditate about the future of our society.

Review by the journalist Elena Manrique
November, 2012.