

Scottish Art News
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For those who have not already seen Chiappe's hyperrealist graphite drawings this solo exhibition of recent works makes essential viewing.

Chiappe is a master at copying old black and white photographs of children on a minuscule scale which almost require a magnifying glass to view. The fact that such close observation is necessary works as a tool to physically draw in the viewer. Up close you realise that these are not straightforward copies. Chiappe aims to draw viewers in by distorting these images, contradicting our assumptions of their subject matter and manipulating the relationship the viewer has with them.

They may be hyperrealist, but they are also strongly illusionistic. For example, *Untitled 6* looks like an ordinary school photograph, yet on closer inspection one can see Laurel and Hardy embedded amongst the school children. This humour is immediately quashed by the macabre effect of the empty spaces where the teachers' heads should be.

Although these drawings are tiny, they carry great weight not only in their skill but in the disarming effect they have upon their viewers.