

Christian Newby

Blue and Blonde and Among the Living

06/09/13 – 28/09/13

Space In Between is delighted to present *Blue and Blonde and Among the Living* - an exhibition of new work by Christian Newby, and his first show with the gallery. Seeking to emphasise the connotative properties beyond an image's surface qualities, Newby's practice takes both formal and decorative objects and images, and distorts, or reconfigures, their temporal properties.

For *Blue and Blonde and Among the Living* this attempt takes place in the form of a single domestic item – a carpet, which Newby has hand-tufted from a design submitted by a painter. Newby invited Zara Idelson to produce an A4 sized work on paper (also installed here in its original form) for the purpose of creating a bespoke carpet; the brief presenting an opportunity for Idelson to locate her work in relation to craft, design and textile production.

This collaboration, and resulting exhibition, is the first part of an ongoing project for which Newby is inviting peers – both artists and designers – to contribute ideas and designs for new work, as part of an ongoing 'social sculpture'. The project's aim is to both highlight and disrupt the semantic divisions and formal hierarchies between art and design, in order to create a dialogue between the two, whilst encouraging the people and places that exist within it to participate as part of a larger creative matrix.

For *Blue and Blonde and Among the Living* the carpet - *Among the Living* (Zara Idelson Rug) - is presented on a raised platform alongside a painted paper column. *Parlour Ape* represents a totem of decorative practices, textile design and wallpaper patterning, the artist having abstracted the 'use value' of the design itself, allowing the object produced to act as itself and nothing more. These works sit alongside painted designs for present and future works: *Among the Living Archive* cat.0001 (Zara Idelson) & *Among the Living Archive* cat.0002 (Christian Newby) situate the show as part of this ongoing and collaborative archive.

Also part of the installation is a cyanotype print of a poster. *Blue and Blonde Perrier* is presented against a domestic fetish of lemon-yellow emulsion. Its narrative, suggestive of interior as presented within theatre or cinema, provokes an idea of personal engagement via the material world to our direct environment. The cyanotype production of this work creates both a didactically direct image whilst at the same time existing as an archival variation of the image as a referent of a prop.

The poster, and its bubbled text offer a narrative arc to the other works. Installed as a group of arrested objects - real but still implementing themselves as agents of influence and ambiguity – *Blue and Blonde and Among the Living* creates an underlying tension between process and exhibition, acting as a conduit for a temporal state between object and image.

Christian Newby was born in 1979 in Virginia Beach, Virginia and currently lives in London. He received his BA in Sculpture and Extended Media at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2002 and then an MFA at the Glasgow School of Art in 2009. Exhibitions include: *Le Club des Sous l'Eau*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris; *Interior 301*, Galerie Alain Gutharc, Paris; *Art + Chips*, MOT International Project Space, London.

Newby recently completed a residency at the Florence Trust in London and was awarded the Converse/Dazed & Confused Emerging Artist Award shortlist in association with Whitechapel Gallery. He has also attended the Triangle Arts Trust's Triangle France Artist in Residence Programme (2011); Participated in the New Work Scotland Programme with Amelia Bywater at Collective Gallery, Edinburgh; 'Parlour Apes' solo exhibition at Transmission Gallery, Glasgow (both 2011).

Show runs 06/09/13 – 28/09/13

Gallery open Fridays & Saturdays 12–6pm or by appointment

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