

Xavier Poultney

METARELICS VOL. II

23/05 – 21/06/14

SIB is delighted to present *Metarelics VOL. II* – an exhibition of new work by Xavier Poultney and his second solo show with the gallery. *VOL. II* follows on from *VOL. I*, part of *Tri Outputs*, exhibited at Košice, Slovakia in 2012.

Metarelics VOL. II features a collection of drawings made over a two-year period and a looped digital animation; installed on customised display units they form part of Poultney's continued research in to past and present forms of communication, scientific objects, data, relics and how we try to make sense of the world around us both historically and in the present day.

Using the Internet, Poultney searched for images and models from many different sources, focusing particular attention on computer-generated renditions and 3D scans of real, or existing, artifacts. From these digital images he has created a series of tableaux and multi-layered hand-drawn constructions; compiled from an array of curious images, which he terms 'relics of progress', these images define various paradigms of thinking and technology.

Referencing the history of 18th Century explorers and scientists sending back botanical and ethnographic drawings from the New World, Poultney is archiving and representing existing digital objects, and through the time-consuming activity of drawing them in pencil on paper, presenting a contemporary set of studies of his own.

The display of the drawings throughout the gallery invites the audience to muse over them, in the same way as we might a collection of Neolithic flints or Victorian medical tools in a museum. Developing the reading of the work in this way creates a feedback loop of meaning as (valuable) object becomes digitized, digital image becomes hand-rendered, and drawing is (re)-displayed as artifact.

Alongside the drawings displayed is a 3D animation of a rotating form. Comprised from elements of the same source imagery this high definition amorphous rendering takes a further step into the project, coalescing these virtual objects into mangled new forms. The two stages of this approach draw our attention to the sublimity of the digital and in doing so, also the meditative futility of the task of drawing the original images in pencil. The humanly impossible exercise of accurately recreating the mathematical precision of the source imagery exposes man's obsession, and disconnect with, the abstract.

The result is that these 'metarelics' appear to play with the passage of time, as though history could have happened in reverse and the accepted linear of past, present and future is thrown in to question.

List of works:

Metarelics, Collection #01 – 09

(Anti-clockwise from left) Pencil on paper, 2014

Tablet YBC7289 with Fractal Polytope

Pencil on paper, framed, 25x35cm, 2014

Superbot module with Jaw Composite

Pencil on paper, framed, 100x75cm, 2014

Schematamorphic Grey Void Test # 1 – Netsuke Buddha with Hubble Space Telescope

Digital animation, 6 minutes, 2014

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Special thank you to Clifford Sage for his help with the computer animation and Alexander Mulligan for his help with the display units.

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Xavier Poultney b. London 1983, graduated from the RCA Communication Art & Design MA in 2009. His recent solo show *Transient Objects* was exhibited at The Meet Factory, Prague and featured in Issue 01 of Noon magazine. Selected group exhibitions include *Group Show*, SIB, 2013, *Joint Ventures*, SIB, 2012, *Volume 1: Props, Events & Encounters*, The Hub Athens, 2010 and *Bold Tendencies*, Hannah Barry Gallery London, 2009. Xavier Poultney lives and works in London.

An artist in conversation event will take place between Xavier Poultney and Hannah Barton from SPACE on Wednesday 11th June at 6.30pm.

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

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