
HIVE GALLERY PRESS RELEASE

HIVE GALLERY
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PAUL MERRICK

13 November - 19 December

Paul Merrick's continued interrogation of painting and process has seen him evolve from working exclusively with oil paint and two-dimensions to a broader enquiry of what painting is and pushing his practice into new territories. This solo exhibition at HIVE Gallery presents new works and includes paintings, sculpture and the made with the ready-made.

Untitled (Big White) and *Untitled (Stalactite Red)* are examples of this new investigation into scale, colour and surface. The materials used in both works have been scavenged or recycled. *Untitled (Big White)* has been assembled using discarded paintings, primed boards, off cuts and seat cushions from the artist's studio. The multiple surfaces have been composed to create a large-scale relief. The backs of old paintings now face the viewer. Subtle textures and surfaces of 'off white' tones that have resulted from their neglect in the studio have now been placed on the gallery wall. Stains, drips, smudges and dusty fingertip marks combine to create a new painting. By contrast *Untitled (Stalactite Red)* consists of a series of found aluminium shop panels sought from a scrap yard. Merrick's enquiry here concerns itself with the raw matter of the support plane. No paint has been applied to its surface, Merrick choosing instead to respond to the material's found condition to create the final artwork. Cut and bolted together the staggered arrangement of panels form a layered surface that is hung high on the gallery wall and which thus creates a dynamic relationship with the surrounding architecture.

Untitled (Grey Fold) 2009 and *Box #1 (Yellow)* 2010 are further examples of Merrick's new approach to painting and incorporate found surfaces. The spray paint primer in Grey Fold transforms the painting away from its rigid stainless steel material to something more delicate, picking out its subtle folds and surface imperfections. *Box #1* confronts the viewer immediately with its physical presence in the gallery space. The found object protrudes from the wall asking to be investigated. In contrast to Grey Fold the yellow high gloss finish of *Box #1* seduces the viewer to question the work more closely.

Alongside the wall-based works Merrick has created a series of sculptures that resemble familiar domestic objects like chairs, tables and beds. Merrick here creates sculptures from found functional objects like IKEA tables or frames and building objects that recreate the archetypal forms of much loved, familiar objects.



Untitled (Construction White) 2010
Chipboard, Stirling board, Plywood,
MDF, Perspex, Cushions
220cm x 208cm

Courtesy of the artist and Workplace Gallery

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(Continued)

Merrick's **Untitled** (*chair*) 2009 resembles early modernist chair designs where materials seldom used for domestic purposes are celebrated. It also recalls Gerrit Reitveld's 'design classic', the painted wood 'Red and Blue Chair'. However, Merrick's 'chair' is sculpture, rather than sculptural. And it is an improvised construction of salvaged materials which continues his interest in surface and process.

Biography

Paul Merrick was born in Oxford in 1973. He graduated in Fine Art from Newcastle University in 1997. This year he was shortlisted for the Northern Futures Award and exhibited in The New Domestic Landscape, NGCA Sunderland and 'Brut Brut' Embassy in Edinburgh. Other exhibitions include Salon09 Matt Roberts Gallery London, Future50 Axis @ PSL Leeds, Tomorrow is the Future, Fishmarkert Gallery, Northampton and All My Favourite Singers Couldn't Sing Workplace Gallery, Gateshead, Red Star Blue Wedge Glasgow International. Paul is represented by Workplace Gallery in Gateshead and has a forthcoming solo exhibition there next year.

About HIVE

Hive Gallery is a contemporary gallery situated within Elsecar Heritage Centre in South Yorkshire. It features a diverse rolling programme of contemporary visual art. HIVE curates eight contemporary art exhibitions per year at the gallery. The HIVE programme ranges from supporting emerging contemporary artists to exhibiting the work of nationally and internationally known artists. Curated by Patrick Murphy

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