

Laura White

We Can Have It All

8 December 2012–23 February 2013

Opening event and artist conversation with Eliza Gluckman, Saturday 8 December 2012, 3–5pm

SpaceX is delighted to announce a major solo exhibition of new works by London based artist Laura White. Sculptural and photographic works explore and respond to human relationships and negotiation with the inanimate objects or 'stuff' of the world. White considers value, profile, association and the meaning of individual and collections of objects in specific circumstances. Relationships are created and questions are provoked in relation to these various 'art' objects concerning value and taste, and our relationship to consumer culture.

Upon entering the exhibition, viewers will locate themselves within a historical context referencing particular sculptural languages including classicism and figuration, modernism; particularly abstraction. Displayed on bespoke plinths, works sit on the boundaries of 'art objects'. It is the trail of pastiche and replica objects, such as a souvenir or reproduced garden statue, in the aftermath of valued objects and sculptures that are addressed and challenged. Every item is treated with a regard to its visual aesthetic, production, and authorship, as even the cheapest item has been designed by someone and has value to somebody. References to artists such as Hepworth, Gabo, and Picasso become apparent with influence from Bauhaus designers such as Theodor Bogler and Gerhard Marcks. White reduces articles to the same material and level of craftsmanship, thus confusing their status.

New photographic works play with scale and placement, materiality and craftsmanship. These are a weave of manipulation and contradiction, a simultaneous promotion and devaluation of photography and the documented objects. Large scale prints mounted on boards displayed in an unconventional manner invite the viewer to gather their own understanding of the value, status and authorship of the ornate objects being represented.

White considers all objects she encounters, whether in bricolage and charity shops, churches or museums. The way she negotiates these objects is both investigative and anthropological, considering aesthetic judgement and taste. She responds with equal attention to a 15th Century Italian bust in Italian marble and granite, as she would a highly crafted copy made to order in China.

We Can Have It All presents a timely investigation into pre-conceived ideas and conditions that trigger our understanding of the everyday. These ideas and conditions shift and alter through investigation and understanding of the work, be that visual or contextual. Through breaching the boundaries of socially constructed categories, White suggests that it may just be possible to 'have it all'.

ENDS

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Notes to editors

Spacex is a leading contemporary art gallery located in the centre of Exeter. Our diverse programme encourages the public to engage with the latest developments in contemporary art through a changing exhibitions programme, which includes new commissions, projects and activities. A significant part of our programme, including artist-led projects, events and research, takes place outside of the gallery. We have an international reputation for presenting ideas from some of the most daring and exciting artists working today.

Laura White, born in Worcester, now lives and works in London. She gained an MA in Fine Art from Goldsmiths, University of London in 2004. Since 2006 she has been a Lecturer in Fine Art at Goldsmiths on the Undergraduate programme. She is the Gallery Chair of Cubitt Gallery and Studios, London. She has exhibited widely, recent exhibitions include *Sinopticton*, Plymouth, 2012 (Group); *Anxious Glory*, Collective Gallery, Edinburgh, 2011 (Solo) and *If I had a monkey I wouldn't need a TV*, Castlefield Gallery, Manchester, 2009 (Solo).

For further information please contact Spacex marketing manager Rowan Green
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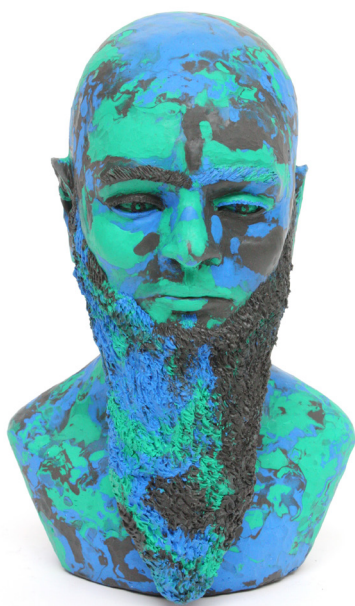
Laura White, *We Can Have It All*, 2012.
SpaceX, Exeter. Image courtesy the artist.



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SpaceX, Exeter. Image courtesy the artist.



Laura White, *The Shapes Game: its hard to take your eyes off it...* 2012. Mixed media. Installation view. Carter Presents, London.



Laura White, *Jesus loves you*. 2012. Mixed media. Blyth Gallery, London. (3 Part work)