

Press Release
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RYAN GANDER

Once upon a Bicycle, not so long ago

Annet Gelink Gallery proudly presents the fifth solo exhibition by Ryan Gander (Chester, 1976): *Once upon a Bicycle, not so long ago*, showing an entirely new body of work. Gander's practice is as deeply conceptual as it is playful, recalling fictional stories and events, personal memories and art history - in particular the history of Modernism. In his current show at Annet Gelink Gallery, Gander reminisces, exhibiting his great skill as a visual storyteller.

On entering the gallery, the first work one encounters is "My head on your Belly" (2013); a marble sculpture of the items of luggage Gander always travels with. Together with the title, the work seems to constitute a longing for home. A little further in the exhibition, one finds "Investigation # 99 - the halo effect" (2013), consisting of two sculptures which Gander has made from a description of an unfinished project by his father. Central in the exhibition space "I is ... (iii)" (2013) is shown, a marble sculpture representing a den, which consists of a simple shelter made by the artist's three years old daughter using a sheet and a full-size Rietveld Crate chair and smaller Rietveld Crate chair, designed for children. Although this work directly recalls Gander's family life, it also hints to art history (De Stijl) by the use of the Rietveld Chairs and by the technique of 'draping'. By rendering drapery in marble, Gander alludes to classical sculpture - creating a playful tension between tradition and modernity. Gander's works are often extremely layered, threading together fact and fiction, the personal and the historical.

By contrast to the traditional medium of marble, in "Investigation # 92 - With heart dotted 'i's" (2013) the artist employs striped toothpaste as his material, from which to fashion an alphabet. Likewise, the lamps he made for his wife are constructed from unorthodox media. In Gander's practice, everything can become a work of art; the artist doesn't limit himself in material nor in subject.

By mentioning his wife, three-year-old daughter or father in his work, Gander easily engages his audience. One should keep in mind however, that his practice is as rigorous as it is poetic.

Recent projects include *Esperluette*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, FR; *dOCUMENTA (13)*, Kassel, DE; *Boing, Boing, Squirt*, Museo Tamayo, Mexico City, MX; *Locked Room Scenario*, commissioned by Artangel, London, UK; and *ILLUMInations* at the 54th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale.

The Bakery:

JACQUELINE BEBB

She Showed a bit of Skirt, but Settled for a Kit-Kat

In the Bakery, Annet Gelink Gallery proudly presents the first show by Jacqueline Bebb (Chester, 1977): *She Showed a bit of Skirt, but Settled for a Kit-Kat*. At Annet Gelink Gallery, Bebb shows three works, each representing specific moments in time and describes them as 'semi-autobiographical and intentionally awkward'. They consider both fondness and regret and come from an ongoing series of work exploring the theme of dissonance.

In both "Almost, Sweet Talk, Caffeine (My Dissonance)" and "Skulk", Bebb reflects on her youth and considers her occasional less than perfect behaviour. In "How Much I Fancied Her 1995 - 2001", she looks back at an ongoing quarrel she had with her best mate, simply referred to as BM. The argument concerned the level of affection one of them thought the other showed towards a girl. At the time, a pie chart was drawn to illustrate the argument, but on reflection neither could remember the specifics of it, only their shared endeavour. The work is comprised of a wooden pie chart made to the specifications of the original drawing. Each segment of the pie represents a year between 1995-2001, with the varying angles denoting the level of affection held for the girl. One pie chart has been gifted to various pubs that the artist and BM used to drink in together in Chester. A second pie chart is exhibited as a sculpture in the current exhibition and the third was gifted to BM as a testimony to their friendship. It was given with the dedication: *BM, I did wrong you once and I am sorry.*

Bebb participated in the group show *Chester* at CO2 in Rome (2012) and she has had a solo show *Carrying Off* in Aldeburgh (2013).