

Stephen Hennessy

EVERY PICTURE SCULPTURE

The works in this series find something in photography and make something out of it. Every picture could tell a story but for me every picture talks sculpture.

I make something from what is striking in the photograph. I add or embellish a hint or murmur and turn it into a production number. Each work is built around something inherent and compelling about the photograph. That something keys into memory, seizes an opportunity or recognition and takes the photographic subject or element back into three-dimensional space. The thing photographed talks back and suggests a makeover.

The works are limited in the scale of their construction. As wall mounted sculpture they are folded, box like or shelf shaped. Their shapes are protrusions or reliefs coming off the wall. At the same time photographs are applied and wrapped around forms.

Photography and sculpture work hard in their juxtaposition; sometimes denying the autonomy of one over the other and often supporting other add-ons such as model trains or dangling bells which are tactile mementos meant to be handled.

There is something archaic in wanting to make little memorial edifices like these. Photography is supposed to be that, now sculpture is forcing a complicated reading and establishing small tableaux to ponder. What emerges from all this conscious reworking is a form that privileges neither photography nor sculpture. The works are assemblages like early 20th century precedents and relate to Dada objects in their uncanny seizure and often blunt opposition of signs.

Each work entails a particular craft process that develops in small steps as the meaning of the image becomes clearer. In fact there is a long loop around the artist photographing, viewing, making the sculpture only to be returned to the photograph.

WORKS INCLUDE: (h x w x d)

LOST CAT 2009

digital photograph, aluminium
300 x 300 x 150mm

EVEREADYMADE 2009

aluminium, digital photograph on canvas, model train.
300 x 250 x 200mm

TIN HAND 2009

aluminium, digital photograph on canvas, brass
300 x 250 x 200mm

FURNITURE (TOODYAY) 2009

300 x 1365 x 70mm
digital photograph, aluminium

JIMI ADRIFT 2010

digital photograph, aluminium
300 x 460 x 120mm

MESSAGE TO BIRD 2009

digital photograph, aluminium
300 x 560 x 100mm

BIRD BATHING 2010

digital photograph, aluminium
200 x 700 x 150mm

WORKSHOP CAMEO 2010

digital photograph, aluminium, brass
300 x 300 x 50mm

SAFE MONEY 2010

digital print, aluminium
125 x 605 x 40mm

GREY PINK SERENADE 2010

digital print, aluminium, guitar strings
300 x 750 x 100mm

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