

**Richard Hughes**

November 28, 2007 – January 12, 2008

November 7, 2007—For his first U.S. solo show, London-based artist Richard Hughes placed a group of incongruous-looking objects throughout the gallery space: stones, paint buckets, worn-out shoes, a dirty mattress, rotten barrel planters. The objects may look harmless and innocent, their placement however (a tire slung around a ceiling beam, for example), already invites questions as to its recent history, use, and function, or imminent action. Upon closer inspection though, these objects reveal themselves as casts, meticulously crafted replicas of every-day things.



In addition to the scattered sculptures, Hughes turned the back room of the gallery into a reversed trompe-l'œil. Objects are placed inside the space and visible only through a head-shaped cut-out in the wall, together creating the illusion of a two-dimensional image, in this case the head of a teen-age boy.

Hughes' sculptures are not ready-mades and only seemingly consist of disparate and discarded materials. As facsimiles of common objects, hand-made by the artist, it's not the object that is transformed but its meaning and ability to speak to the viewer. Gradually, these objects-turned-sculptures reveal their inherent capacity to tell stories, narratives that are charged with everyday-life experience and humor. Paradoxically, they would not possess any of these qualities were they simply found objects.

In 2006, Richard Hughes was nominated for the Beck's Futures award and his work included in the accompanying exhibition at the ICI, London. Hughes has exhibited frequently throughout the U.K and Europe over the past decade. Most recently, his work has been presented in one-person shows at the Tate Britain under the title *Art Now: Richard Hughes: Keep On Onnin'* (2006) and *The Shelf-life of Milk* at The Showroom, London (2004). Recent group shows include *Strange I've Seen That Face Before* at the Museum Abteiberg in Mönchengladbach, Germany (2006), and *British Art Show* at the Baltic Art Center, Gateshead (2005), subsequently touring to Manchester, Nottingham, and Bristol.

The exhibition will open on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 and will run through Saturday, January 12, 2008. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm. For further information and images, please contact Christoph Gerozissis or Michael Clifton at (t) 212.367.9663, (f) 212.367.8135 or email: [info@antonkerngallery.com](mailto:info@antonkerngallery.com).

**Upcoming exhibitions: Ellen Berkenblit, Anne Collier (both January 17 – February 22, 2008)**

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