



Balcony

Date

2017

Primary Maker

Vidal, Marcel

Medium

Expanding foam, spray paint, wood, watercolour on paper, framed with glass bitumen, zinc fittings, castor wheels, animal hooves, glue, twine, linen, plaster

Description

Marcel Vidal makes paintings and sculptures. Quietly disarming and unsettling us with an ominous beauty, Vidal's paintings are marked by their controlled brushwork, layering oil on linen with delicacy and precision. They are refined and restrained, incarnating brightly lit fragments of photographs or digital images: unidentified figures seem caught by flashbulbs, and hold their arms in defensive barriers; glossy foliage catches the light before

retreating into darkness; distinguished hands are frozen mid-clap. Vidal's minimal compositions are severely cropped to reveal only a sliver of their subject, using ambiguity to frustrate interpretation, all while inviting our curiosity. Vidal's sculptures, meanwhile, encompass contrasting and combative textures and materials: furs, feathers or deer hooves mixed with assembled wood, concrete or industrial metal hardware. Chains, spikes and pestprevention devices are rigged up for attack or defense, echoing the hostility of urban space and inner-city infrastructure. The sculptures often house small, self-contained watercolour paintings that rub up against the authority of their environments: ribbons of sausages, fragments of sculptures, an irreverent asshole. In Vidal's most recent work, sculptural assemblages have expanded outwards into more immersive environments, entering a dialogue with the history, architecture and symbolism of the spaces they inhabit. Gallery walls have been suffused with matte black spray paint, or floors softened with artificial grass, creating unexpected and surprising spatial shifts. Visually arresting, these sculptural environments create a playful tension between the organic and the constructed, the threatening and fetishistic, the vital and the macabre. Recent solo exhibitions include: SILVERFISH, The Dock Arts, Carrick on Shannon (2018); Donut, Temple Bar Gallery + Studios, Dublin (2017/2018); #untitled, Basic Space, Dublin (2013); Selected group exhibitions include, Hennessy Craig Award, Royal Hibernian Academy, Ireland (2019); Zurich Portrait Prize, National Gallery of Ireland (2019); Too Much Sugar, Drawing & Installation Station, TBG+S, Ireland (2019); Syntonic State, Tulca, Galway (2018); Hannah Fitz / Aí ne McBride / Daniel Rios Rodriguez / Marcel Vidal, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin (2017) and MOON

FARK, Jason Dunne / Marcel Vidal / David Eager Maher, RAKE, Norway (2014). Vidal is a recipient of Arts council of Ireland Next Generation Award and the winner of The Hennessy Craig Award, RHA Gallery, (Both 2019).

Dimensions

Object: 198 × 62 × 62 cm Main sculpture: 146 × 62 × 62 cm Head: 50 × 34 × 34 cm