



Press Release

Evelyn Yard at EXPO CHICAGO

BOOTH 713

Navy Pier, 600 E Grand Ave, Chicago, IL 60611

Featuring the work of MICHAEL PYBUS

September 17–20, 2015



Evelyn Yard is pleased to announce its participation in Expo Chicago 2015, held at Navy Pier from September 17 to 20. The booth features a solo presentation by multi-disciplinary British artist Michael Pybus with a brand new series of works titled the 'Blacklight Paintings'.

Pybus' works are a dark celebration of contemporary culture. Hijacking popular brands and icons he re-narrates them in a painterly act of sampling to associate these mass-market sources with his own personal objectives and artist brand. He dissects a modern day landscape consumed in a hunger for infinite abundance and choice. Artists such as Richard Prince and Christopher Wool find themselves remixed with global brands such as Pokemon, Disney and IKEA in a collapse of hierarchies that reflects the flattening out of history, contextualising what our Post-Internet Age has embraced.

On a daily basis, endless versions of images surround us as a result of our 'image-excess' culture. Shifts in scale, colour, orientation that are seen in multiple open windows on our computer screens, cell phones, on-street advertising, tumblr/instagram feeds and the scrolling of Facebook speed

up the time we spend looking. These 'hijacked' brands are painted in a multitude of colours, sizes and finishes, reflecting the nature of the mass-produced consumer goods made available to us and sent back out into the virtual environment via apps.

The processing of digital imagery through the traditional medium of oil paint suggests a sense of the slow permanent time of the analogue opposed to the fast throwaway time of the Internet's digital reality. Flattened images that read as whole or understood either from afar or with fleeting glances whether cropped, pixelated, incomplete or edited here are brought together. These brands and images become specific templates for Pybus to work with, creating new meanings, readings and narratives. The surface of things 'the sheen of modern life' - be it shiny new products, glowing touch screens, or the mask of celebrity are intrinsic to his work. As quickly as they are embraced, they are discarded.

In the new series of Blacklight Paintings, Pybus continues his study of the surface of painting in relation to the contemporary urban environment. Through his use of neon UV reactive paints which appear flat and natural in daylight, transforming into glowing fields of fluorescent colour under blacklight, he introduces the concept of hidden layers, a duality in shifting states referencing the Blade Runner glow of the technological metropolis' which plays stage to our rapidly advancing technological civilisation.

Michael Pybus (b. 1982, England) lives and works in London, graduating from his MA at the Royal College of Art, 2008. Recent shows include – Solo show hubcap sMiley feat F · R · I · E · N · D · S ✓Friends at Evelyn Yard London UK, People You May Know curated by Debora Delmar at Bosse + Baum London UK, I refuse to participate in failure at Spreez Munich, Germany, Business as Usual curated by Perce Jerrom at Turf Projects London UK, Drops of Jupiter - Bannerette NYC, USA, BASIC BITCHES at Skylab, Columbus Ohio, The Drawer Col 7 The Drawer Paris, France. Forthcoming shows include – Group show at DASH Kortrijk, Belgium, and 'If it works it's obsolete' at Johannes Vogt NYC, USA (solo).

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