

MATTHEW MONAHAN

APRIL 23 - OCTOBER 30, 2011

Matthew Monahan creates monument scaled figurative sculptures whose bodies appear to have been built from mismatched spare parts. With wires and strapping, each part is precariously tethered to the whole. As such, Monahan's sculptures seem to hover in a state of fleeting existence, projecting the illusion that the forces of nature could turn them back into unrecognizable rubble at any moment. These sculptures engage us in a dialogue between contemporary and ancient; alien and disparate parts.

Monahan creates these sculptures using unconventional materials such as flower foam, tape, housing insulation, and glass. He manipulates their surfaces with glitter, wax and spray paint to achieve the appearance of aged bronze and other metals. The resulting effect is that of ruins from culture long passed—one that is simultaneously foreign and familiar.

Monahan (b. 1972) is based in Los Angeles California and studied at Cooper Union School of Art in New York. He has shown at the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, the 2008 Carnegie International, the 2006 Whitney Biennale, and the New Museum.

Curated by Raphaela Platow and organized by the Contemporary Arts Center.

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