

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Matthew Monahan**  
**22 May – 27 June 2009**  
**Private View 21 May**

We are delighted to announce our second solo show with the American artist Matthew Monahan with an exhibition of ambitious new sculpture, drawing and etching.

Currently residing in Los Angeles, the artist has previously lived in China, Japan and Holland and consequentially the metaphor of travel runs vividly throughout Monahan's art work, in both his compression of genre, history and its subsequent displacement. There is a feeling that these sculptures have been 'lived', and not just made, and they have come about through years of fascination, observation and experience by the artist.

Monahan's sculpture typically combines charcoal drawing with carved figures (made from expanding foam, photocopies, beeswax) displayed in a museological presentations fashioned from building materials such as plasterboard and glass. In many of the latest works, the artist exploits a sculptural tension and gravity by continuing to explore the presentation of his work on, in, or around the plinth.

These recent works include pieces that are literally 'in space', almost floating, trapped between two panes of glass and tightly held in suspension by industrial straps. Other sculptures have been created around a drawing. In one work, a large sweeping charcoal portrait is encased inside a glass vitrine (or rather, a vitrine is built around it), subverting the inherent hierarchy of sculpture over drawing.

In this exhibition Monahan has utilised his debased repertoire of materials to create an incredible, compelling and utterly unique body of work that transcends its own materiality into a remade and recycled spiritual classicism.

Matthew Monahan has been the subject of solo shows at LA MOCA, the Douglas Hyde Gallery Dublin, and has been included in significant group shows such as The Carnegie International, Pittsburgh, the 9<sup>th</sup> Gwangju Biennale, The 4<sup>th</sup> Berlin Biennale and Unmonumental at the New Museum in New York. His work is in the collection of the Tate Gallery, SF MOMA, LA MOCA, the Stedelijk Museum and the Art Institute of Chicago.

For further information or images, please contact Andrew Cannon at [andrew@modernart.net](mailto:andrew@modernart.net)

**Visitor Information:**

**ADDRESS:** 23-25 Eastcastle Street, London, W1W 8DF

**OPENING HOURS:** Tuesday-Saturday 11am-6pm

**ADMISSION:** Free

**NEAREST TUBE:** Oxford Circus

**CONTACT TELEPHONE:** +44 (0) 207 299 7950

**CONTACT EMAIL:** [info@modernart.net](mailto:info@modernart.net)

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The Greens Keeper  
2009  
polyurethane foam, wax, epoxy resin, glitter, paint,  
adhesive screen, glass, ratchet straps  
239.5x40x38 cm, 94.3x15.7x15 ins



St. Julian and Wall  
2009

polyurethane foam, wax, epoxy resin, metal leaf, graphite on paper,  
glass, photocopy on mylar, paint, aluminium,  
154.7x96x92 cm, 60.9x37.8x36.2 ins



St. Julian and Wall (detail)  
2009

polyurethane foam, wax, epoxy resin, metal leaf, graphite on paper,  
glass, photocopy on mylar, paint, aluminium,  
154.7x96x92 cm, 60.9x37.8x36.2 ins





Magpie  
2009

polyurethane foam, wax, epoxy resin, graphite powder, photocopy collage with  
graphite on paper, clips, pigment, insulating bubble wrap, glass, ratchet strap  
183x91.2x64.5 cm, 72x35.9x25.4 ins  
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Squint Spirits  
2009  
polyurethane foam, wax, epoxy resin, photocopy and charcoal on paper,  
aluminium, paint, pigment, metal leaf, glitter, glass, ratchet strap  
153.5x152.3x68 cm, 60.4x60x26.8 ins