

PRESS RELEASE

Tom Burr
Head Ache
Private View 26 February
27 February – 9 April 2009

With 'Head Ache' Modern Art is delighted to announce its second solo show with Tom Burr, which opens at the gallery 27th February and continues through to 9th April 2009.

During the past two decades Tom Burr has earned a critical reputation as a leading figure in American contemporary art. Emerging within a generation of artists, for whom the appropriation of the minimalist vernacular was used as a conceptual strategy, he is known for a reductive series of works that parallels the human body with a brutal and austere geometry, as well as an indexical use of portraiture.

Burr utilises his sculpture as a façade - to pin pages of books or magazines, drape clothes, to display discarded objects (such as bottles of alcohol and a decanter, mirrors or a telephone receiver). These assemblages symbolically invoke the signs and debris of a cultural personae.

In these latest works Burr takes his signature practice to a new reductive, elemental level: referencing his own infamous exhibition from '42nd Street Structures' (1995) these works replace his recent monochromatic structures with those made of raw untreated plywood.

One of these sculptures, 'Unplug Me Please (in Purple)', 2009, is a wooden box that leans back against the wall of the space: a minimalist sculpture on which elements have been hung on clothing hangers, such as a three quarter length mans coat and a dress shirt. The side of the piece is illuminated by a purple neon text.

The recent introduction of neon signs in Burr's production 'title' his structures and can be interpreted as a more personal reference or biography. However, by representing text extracts such as 'Head Ache', 'Unplug Me' or 'White Tube Socks' these signs, moreover, evade a direct interpretation of his work, in favour of a more ambiguous and compelling open ended territory.

A new series of 'Bulletin Boards' are pinned with imagery taken from vintage magazines (Harper's Bazaar, Fortune, Esquire, Life), using categories of selection such as 'brain', 'brain dead', 'blindness', 'emptiness', 'blankness' and 'head aches'. Together with additional empty record sleeves, these eloquent collages form a significant part of the exhibition.

Tom Burr will have a two person show Bonvicini/Burr, with Monica Bonvicini, opening at the Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus und Kunstbau, Munich, opening in May and later travelling to Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Basel. He has recently been the subject of significant solo shows at Secession, Vienna, The Sculpture Centre, New York and at the Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts de Lausanne. Recent group shows include 'Political/Minimal' at Kunst-Werke Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, 'The Station', curated by Nate Lowman & Shamin Momin, Miami, 'In the Cherished Company of Others' at de Appel, Art Centre for Art, Amsterdam, and 'Unmonumental' curated by Richard Flood, Laura Hoptman and Massimiliano Gioni at the New Museum, New York.

For further information or images, please contact Andrew Cannon at Stuart Shave / Modern Art (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

WEBSITE: www.modernart.net

Press Contact: Andrew Cannon at Stuart Shave/Modern Art
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7299 7950 or Email andrew@modernart.net



Unplug Me Please
2009
plywood, neon, coat, shirt, coat hanger
181x195x70 cm, 71.3x76.8x27.6 ins



Legs
2009
plywood, glass mirror, socks
59.5x418x208 cm, 23.4x164.6x81.9 ins



Large Nude
2009
magazine pages, steel pins, Plexiglas mirror on plywood
122x122x5 cm, 48x48x2 ins



Bazaar Life
2009
magazine pages, record sleeves, steel pins on stained plywood
122x122x5 cm, 48x48x2 ins