

N/A

Press release  
*My Character*  
Hardy Hill  
6.14 - 7.14.2024

From June 14 to July 14, N/A presents <My Character> solo exhibition Hardy Hill, based in New York. This show is the artist's first solo exhibition in Seoul and features 11 new works, including a collection of short stories, *How Did You Get in the Building?*

In Joy Williams' story "The Visiting Privilege," an elderly woman who fears a home invasion after her husband's death creates an inflatable mannequin called 'Safe-T-Man', an inflatable mannequin that she purchases after her husband's death. 'Safe-T-Man' is an artificial companion and a deterrent to intruders, but it's also a threatening. The illusion provides comfort and companionship, but it also prevents the formation of relationships and adds to feelings of isolation.

For Hardy Hill, images are like objects, passive and inanimate. To draw someone is to replace them with an object. Images are ghostly, corpse-like, and disembodied. It is like an illusion, images can comfort us or terrorize us. Modified with minimal descriptive expression and theatrical direction, *Illuminated Figure 1-3* is majestic but conveys the ambivalence of "there is a 'Safe-T-Man' in the house" in a dignified but somehow inept pose.

*Rational Theater scored for home security*, which originated from an interest in home security technology, particularly 'mockupancy' (turning on lights to deter burglars when you're away from home), is a play without characters. The six lamps correspond to the six characters in Heinrich von Kleist's 1806-1811 play "The Broken Jug". Each light turns on when the character is "on stage" and turns off again when the character exits. A theatrical object is a set of lights encoded in the a series of presence and absence (entrances and exits) encoded in the activation and deactivation of a set of lights. Works often present action from a frontal point of view, like a theatrical stage, which places the viewer in the position of a voyeur.

In *How Did You Get in the Building?*, figures, who are both present and absent, habitually appear. Hardy's photographs, "my characters" in a fantasy world that changes according to the desires of each ghostwriter who receives a profile, translate from language to image to a strange and unfamiliar "my character."

Hardy Hill (b. 1993, USA) grew up in a small farming town in western Massachusetts and studied printmaking at the Rhode Island School of Design. He later switched to early Christian theology and now lives in New York City. His recent exhibitions include <Now it's dark and there's somebody in it>, Cassius&Co., London(2024) and <I like a view but I like to sit with my back turned to it>, Fanta, Milan(2024).