

stance; kitchen utensils stand to a comical attention; and the an empty hockey helmet is deathly, perhaps more evocative than the skull it imitates, considering the potentially destructive nature of its material. Plastic plays a significant role in each of our day-to-day lives, contributing to our comfort, consumerism, bliss, and, ultimately, our impact, degradation and mortality. Neudecker's clever and exquisitely put together images are probing in many ways.

Neudecker has reflected that making this body of work has made her reconsider plastics and their relationship to the environment. As part of Bow Arts' striving for environmental awareness within the arts, Nunnery Gallery will host a panel event alongside the exhibition asking the wider question *Should arts be used as a tool for sustainability?* This will be accompanied by a screening of *For Now We See* (2013), a series of films by Neudecker that look at our impact on the environment in collaboration with Marine Biologist Alex Rogers, produced by Alice Sharp.

Prof. Susan Lambert, Head of MoDiP, says:

"The resulting images are remarkable. They are also beautiful. The vanitas paradigm shines a new light literally and metaphorically on these mundane objects. Individually they are redefined as contributors to life's precarious mortality. Carmen curlers are no longer useful beauty aids but instead emblems of vanity; a protective hockey helmet becomes a spectre of what might happen were it not worn; clocks become the harbingers of life's brevity; and so on. The compositions as a whole act as allegories of the challenges that face our world with its dwindling resources."

Nunnery Gallery Manager, Sophie Hill says:

"The first trademarked man-made plastic *parkesine* was made in a factory in Hackney Wick in 1856. Plastic is part of the East End's history and to host an exhibition that explores the shapes of what it has become is wonderfully fitting for the Nunnery Gallery. Neudecker's images draw attention to the detail and design of objects we take for granted, giving the overlooked a power and agency through beautifully intriguing and relevant images."

Curated by Susan Lambert, MoDiP

Supported by Arts Council England, this is a collaborative project between TheGallery and MoDiP and a text + work touring exhibition. As part of its exhibition tour, *Plastic Vanitas* will move to Bath Spa University and Poole Lighthouse following the Nunnery Gallery.

ENDS

For press information and further images please contact:

Bow Arts

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Notes to editors

Exhibition Details

Plastic Vanitas; Mariele Neudecker

Dates: Friday 15 January – Sunday 27 March 2016

Private View: Thursday 14 January, 6-9pm

Panel event: Wednesday 24 February 2016, 7-9pm

Address: Nunnery Gallery, Bow Arts, 181 Bow Road, London E3 2SJ

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 8980 7774

Opening Hours: Tues – Sun, 10am – 4pm

Admission: Free

Travel: Bow Road Tube Station, Bow Church DLR

Museum of Design in Plastics (MoDiP)

MoDiP is the only accredited museum in the UK with a focus on plastics. It is the UK's leading resource for the study and interpretation of design in plastics and a specialist research resource within the Arts University Bournemouth, where Plastic Vanitas was created during the artist's residency.

www.modip.ac.uk

Bow Arts

Bow Arts Trust was established as an educational arts charity in 1995 and supports a community of over 400 artists with affordable, secure and creative workspaces. Bow Arts also runs the Nunnery Gallery, a contemporary art gallery which supports a diverse range of local, national and international exhibitions and events.

www.bowarts.org

Exhibition touring dates & venues

Corsham Court, Bath Spa University, 1 May – 31 July 2016

To be shown alongside the extraordinary Wunderkammer natural history collection with its fossils and stuffed animals recalling the contents of Vanitas paintings.

Poole Lighthouse, 29 October – 26 November 2016

Helping to integrate MoDiP with its wider local community.



TheGallery
text + work



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