

HICKSTER PROJECTS

WORK re: WORK

JOHN MAYBURY, ALBERTO MUGNAINI, Curated by Sue Kennington

Inauguration: Friday 10 August -19:30 until late

Show runs: 11 - 26 August 2018 by appointment email: <u>info@hicksterprojects.com</u>, +39 347 8812709



Alberto Mugnaini

Hickster Projects is delighted to present an exhibition of work by John Maybury and Alberto Mugnaini at its project space in the heart of the Crete Senesi, Italy.

Both artists are using existing originals as their starting point. Whether these be abandoned pieces of furniture, old pornographic images or pop videos from the 80's. The common ground is the action of re-working, making changes that recontextualise the original whilst leaving the primary piece much in evidence. The artist is revealed not only through their interventions, but by their choice of *materia prima*. A choice, that is related to personal memory, anachronistic, but through their intervention catapulted into the present. During the process of both adding and subtracting, distinguishing characteristics of the original fall away and a resurrection occurs simultaneously. Maybury's fascination with club

culture, re-working his own past footage in his film 'Read Only Memory' 1998 by using electronic and digital manipulation, is now painting on found pornographic images revealing lone porn stars, marooned in black.

Mugnaini is sourcing mass-produced, discarded pieces of furniture and artefacts, taking them into his studio, and working them back by subtracting from the original, then painting upon them, until they take on a different form entirely, producing anthropomorphic forms that have a poetry in their new lives as dispensable but beautiful beings.

The re-contextualizing of these objects relates to the current state of work and how it is morphing from the essential labour based activity of creating objects of necessity and desire from raw materials, to a process of refinement, where incremental changes are applied to existing products and ideas. Maybe evolving to a point at which human intervention is not required at all.



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This exhibition then is primarily concerned not with the creation of originals, but with revealing the idea of work as an historical intervention, between man and material, and our new position in this period of transformation.



John Maybury - Read Only Memory

John Maybury (1958 London) is a British artist and filmmaker. In 1984 his first major exhibition at the ICA, London, combined painting, installation, film and video. Concurrently he worked closely with Derek Jarman on many projects including 'Jubilee' and 'The Last of England'. By the early1980s, working in Super 8 and video, Maybury had become a leading light of the British underground film movement. He shaped a style that was unashamedly exotic, with influences from Kenneth Anger to Jean Cocteau. This led to commissions for music videos for artists such as Sinead O'Connor, Neneh Cherry and Boy George. He subsequently made four celebrated feature films: Man To Man, Love Is the Devil, The Jacket and The Edge of Love. Most recently he showed photographs and video at the Galleria Lorcan O'Neill in Rome.

Alberto Mugnaini (1955 Pisa) artist, critic and writer, graduated in History of Art and received a Ph.D. from the University of Pisa. From 1994 to 1999 he lived in New York where he was one of the founders of the "New York Works" design workshop. In 2006 he created the "AlbertoAperto" project, which includes exhibitions and cultural projects in his Milan studio. He is a contributor to the "Flash Art" magazine. His design and sculptural works have been exhibited in the most prestigious museums in Milan such as the Bagatti Valsecchi, the Poldi Pezzoli and the Design Museum of the Triennale.

Sue Kennington (1955 London) has been curating and organizing Hickster Projects since 2015. She trained in London at Goldsmiths College (MFA). In 2002 she moved her practice to central Italy and now works between there and a studio in Rome. In 1996 her work featured in New Contemporaries at the Tate Liverpool and the Camden Arts Centre, London. Since then she has gone onto exhibit regularly in both Italy and the UK. Recent exhibitions include Frame Structure at Galleria La Veronica in Modica, Sicily, Glimpse at Golborne Gallery, London, and Colour, Order, System at Sid Motion Gallery, London. She will be having a solo show at C2 in Florence in December.