

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Patrons, Muses and Professionals

24th Sept - 23rd October 16th 2010.
Private View 6-9pm Thursday 23rd Sept
Curated by Joe Winter

EYEBEAM
540 W. 21st Street,
New York, NY 10011

Eyebeam is pleased to present *Patrons, Muses and Professionals*, a series of sculptures by London-based artist Nick Hornby installed in the Eyebeam Window Gallery.

In *Patrons, Muses, and Professionals*, Hornby presents three busts derived from eighteenth century portraits on view at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Each work hybridizes three distinct portraits, one individual representing each of the titular archetypes. Hornby models his chosen subjects digitally, overlapping them to create composite virtual objects that reveal shifting aspects of their source material. The results are carved via CNC. The artist casts the final objects by hand with plaster and clay from these industrially-generated positives.

One part handmade, one part computer-generated, one part professionally fabricated. One part inspired, one part quoted, one part calculated. Through both its production process and archetypal subject matter, Hornby's work creates a nuanced historical take on a contemporary penchant to complicate authorship and dematerialize the objects of art. By pairing historical subject matter--the portrait bust--with digital production processes, the work draws parallels between the disappearance of the hand in art making and the extra-individual forces that have historically shaped artistic production: patronage and collection; the distribution of labor and skill; the uncertainty of inspiration.

Patrons, Muses and Professionals simultaneously embraces and inverts the dynamics of portraiture. Commissioned for biographical and often rendered with allegorical content in mind, the portrait is often read in light of an artist's interpretation of the subject. Hornby's composites, however, suggest the myriad ways the subject remakes the artist. Rather than a single subject, Hornby assembles a whole cast of characters as a means to question the extent to which the artist has ever been the sole proprietor of creation. As an alternative, he casts the artist, subjects, and viewer as single points in an expansive network of production, consumption, and distribution of cultural artifacts.

Patrons, Muses, and Professionals is the third in series of site-specific window gallery installations organized by Eyebeam alum Joe Winter. All works in the exhibition appear courtesy of Alexia Goethe Gallery, London.

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For images and further information please contact:
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Notes to Editors :

Nick Hornby (b 1980) lives and works in London. He was described by ES Magazine as “The New Gormley” and picked for the Evening Standard “Who to Watch, 2010”. Recent projects include, the 2012 cultural Olympiad, large public work for the South Bank Centre, and ‘The Ghost in the Machine’ at Tate Britain, Altermodern. He was recently shortlisted for the inaugural Spitalfields Sculpture prize and Mark Tanner Sculpture Prize, other prizes include the Clifford Chance Sculpture Prize, the Deidre Hubbard Sculpture Award, the BlindArt Prize.

Hornby's recently commissioned sculpture for the Hyatt Andaz on 5th Avenue is also currently on view in New York.

Joe Winter (b. 1981) received a BA in New Media from Brown University and an MFA in Visual Art from UC San Diego. He has exhibited his work in the US, Canada, Mexico, and Great Britain, including at X-initiative (NY), Eyebeam (NY), the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, Compact Space (LA), URBIS (UK), Estacion Tijuana, and the Western Front (Vancouver, BC). He has completed residencies through Eyebeam Art and Technology Center, the MacDowell Colony, Skowhegan, and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, and received an individual artist grant from the New York State Council for the Arts in 2009. His work has been featured on Rhizome, Artforum.com, and appears in the Phaidon/New Museum publication Younger than Jesus: The Artist Directory.

Eyebeam is the leading not-for-profit art and technology center in the United States. Eyebeam is an art and technology center that provides a fertile context and state-of-the-art tools for digital research and experimentation. It is a lively incubator of creativity and thought, where artists and technologists actively engage with culture, addressing the issues and concerns of our time. Eyebeam challenges convention, celebrates the hack, educates the next generation, encourages collaboration, freely offers its contributions to the community, and invites the public to share in a spirit of openness: open source, open content and open distribution.

Eyebeam

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Eyebeam is open to the public Tuesday - Saturday, 12:00-6:00pm.

Admission is free with a suggested donation for all exhibitions and events unless otherwise noted in our calendar.

Eyebeam is ADA compliant and wheelchair accessible.