

Culture 24 : 'The eggs and bin bags of Gavin Turk in The Years at Ben Brown Fine Arts, London', April 30th, 2013

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Exhibition preview: Gavin Turk: The Years, Ben Brown Fine Arts, London, until June 14 2013



Gavin Turk, Refuse (2012)
© Gavin Turk, courtesy Ben Brown Fine Arts

In his **last outing** at Ben Brown Fine Arts, former YBA Gavin Turk paid part homage to conceptualist Alighiero Boetti .

Turk's new work, premiering here, is inspired by one of Boetti's fellow countrymen: Michelangelo Pistoletto, a 20th century master, was known for his highly-polished surfaces, one of which is fused with an example of Turk's trademark bin bag sculptures.

It's called Rubbish but, in an unusually unsurprising twist for an arch provocateur, turns out to be anything but: Turk's original tinkering with bronze sculptures-turned urban waste are positioned as a new British trompe l'oeil, demonstrated further by 2012's Refuse – a work of extreme detail, carrying off another bin bag – and the 2004 and 2008 works of Habitat (Zingy Purple) and Burnt Out, both holding references to sleeping rough.

This is a survey of two decades of work, with the most recognisable being Triple Pop Black and White, riffing on the 1993 waxwork, pop, where Turk portrayed himself as Sid Vicious pulling the gunslinging pose of Elvis as seen by Warhol.

He uses the same silkscreen process as Warhol in this update, then swiftly reimagines himself with a shotgun nose and bulging eggs for eyes in Oscar II, a bust made in 2000 based on the figure in Magritte's L'ellipse.

Eggs, it turns out, are a recurring theme: broken egg shells spell out Turk's signature in one new work, and etch his initials in another.

More pictures:



Burnt Out (2008)

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Evil Eye (2012)
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The Nubians of Plutonia
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