

STYX

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Press
Release

Freya Gabie: *undone.retold*

27 JULY – 10 AUGUST 2011

OPENING RECEPTION:
27 JULY 2011, 7 PM

OPEN FRIDAYS TO SUNDAYS
3–5 PM OR BY APPOINTMENT

STYX Projects Berlin is proud to introduce ›undone.retold‹ featuring the work of Glasgow-based artist Freya Gabie, in her first solo show in Germany.

Presenting both site-specific work and recent studio pieces, Gabie explores the concepts of materiality and function. She takes objects from her surroundings and by ›undoing‹ their function, she constructs new narratives. Philosophically, she presents objects as rhizomes, having neither a beginning nor an end. Her sculptures are in the process of becoming. Surfaces of objects are disrupted to create a sense of multiplicity. Through this transformative process, objects take on a physicality that simultaneously inhabits and transcends the space around it.

With a playfulness reminiscent of Duchamp, she explores the psychological tensions between familiarity and novelty, preferring to work with ›mundane‹ objects; card, wallpaper, pins and discarded items. ›Knot‹ re-examines the way in which we classify objects. Often, a knot is purely functional; the knotted material is the object immediately identified. Through isolation, and by taking away its function, the knot takes on its own visual identity. The loops and folds become signifiers of tensions inherent in the form. With a similar sense of re-



Freya Gabie, ›Spine‹, 2011, carved wallpaper, 130 x 10 cm

exploration, ›The way one thing speaks to another‹ draws upon the relationship between six objects found in Gabie's home environment in Glasgow, with six objects found in Berlin. She initiates a dialogue between the corresponding objects, subverting their familiarity and suggesting a droll sense of the uncanny. Perceived in isolation, we are asked to explore the intricacy and texture of each item, and to question its functionality. Through this reframing and re-contextualising process, both the work and the surrounding environment assume a sense of newness.

Gnarled yet delicate ›Spine‹ stretches along the length of a table. Its appearance of solidarity is off-set by the tiny pin-prick holes throughout. Reminiscent of the vertebrae of an animal, it echoes the strength and vulnerability of our own structural form. Like many of Gabie's pieces, ›Spine‹ has a sense of mobility, as if the sculpture has

momentarily paused in its continual process of becoming.

›undone.retold‹ draws attention to our awareness of our own physicality in relation to the objects we interact with and processes we regularly undertake. With an almost archaeological attention to materials, and through the reconstruction of narratives within objects, Gabie's work has a lyricism that imbues its environment with a sense of freshness and discovery.

Freya Gabie was born in South West England and studied Sculpture at Chelsea Collage of Art. Since Graduating she has exhibited in numerous shows throughout the UK, including ›Cellspace‹ at STYX Projects London. In 2009 she was artist in residence at the Meantime Space, resulting in the solo show ›Desirelines‹. She has been short listed for the ›Open West‹, ›Artsway‹ and the ›Darbyshire Award‹. Gabie is currently based in Glasgow.