



Jack O'Brien

Waiting For The Sun To Kill Me

September 4 – October 17, 2021

Socks fit into open mouths, ripped vests stretch over pumped bodies and the taste of soft cotton and sweat; leaves a metallic taste. It's a reminder of cold locker rooms, of formative experiences and former adolescence. The white sock hints a class kink fetish or not and the white vest - a history – the past of a gay relic and consequential prop.

In *Waiting For The Sun To Kill Me*, the works pose as elongated figures, exhausted and motionless. Clothes are muddied through nights knelt amongst the bushes, drenched and discoloured from sweat, the personal and synthetic clash, the cuff and sleeve voids of the garments are animated and filled with wax. A graphic 'duo' enters a dialogue between the past and future, acting as scaffolding that helps us to explore rules of structure, of displacement, formality and ultimately the 'structure of feeling' all in 'a pattern of impulses, restraints and tones' (Raymond Williams, 1978).

The vest is maimed on barbed wire whilst socks filled with hot wax and pierced with steel rods, are confrontational, they are demanding, and offer a strict and uncomfortable approach to viewing. The cylindrical tube of fencing becomes a gloryhole or a viewfinder; this device is an instruction to gaze and a visceral suggestion for bodily movement and engagement. These works act as typographic symbols that interrogate the aesthetic and practical qualities of objects and materials, they follow the rules but in doing so they also break and reframe them. These objects are emblematic and present a tussle between fear, shame and desire.

Scrolling on my phone, here I engulf a violent proliferation of images, bodies and objects. As the cataclysmic car crash of late-capitalism surges ahead, the structure of feeling shifts. We are seduced, softened, numb and in a state of permanent arousal.

Jack O'Brien (1993) lives and works in London. Past solo and group exhibitions include clearview.ltd, London; V.O Curations, London; Becky's, London; White Cubicle Gallery, London; KEM, Warsaw and Peres Projects, Berlin.

Drummer

2021

Wire Fencing Roll, Muslin, Concrete, Thread Rod, Glass Wax, Football Socks, Steel
0.3m x 1m x 3m

Lover

2021

Steel Wire, Clay, White Vest, Football Sock, Barbed Wire
Dimensions Variable