

Kerstin Engholm Galerie
DAVID BEN WHITE
LIVING ROOM

Opening: 19/11/2013, 6 pm
Exhibition: 20/11/2013 – 21/12/2013

Press release

Working with the idea of the domestic space as a constructed realm, David Ben White's installations explore the precarious balance between homeliness and modernism. Recalling conversations with his late grandmother, Elizabeth Benjamin, a committed modernist architect, in which her belief in the unifying force of modernist design was absolute, White focuses on his own relationship to modernism, by questioning its inconsistencies and absolutism. In consequence, his work balances between two modes of construction: the didactic formalism of modernist architecture, painting and design and the more personally located, homely space of the everyday, domestic environment.

'Home' as an idea, suggests itself as a location in which the participant, as consumer, defines their aspirations and taste. Televised design shows, shop windows enacting domestic interior configurations, interior decorating and furniture magazines all elaborate a familiar language of possibility, which as consumers, we in turn, aspire to surround ourselves with. For the artist, this construction works as a self-portrait, in which notions of taste, history and culture can emerge. Like an interior designer, David Ben White constructs installations that quote painterly references from different tropes of modernism and domestic, decorative design. In the ongoing 'Designs for Living' paintings, this finds its focus in connecting the banality of the everyday, domestic location with an in-between sense of artificial, hybridized history.

David Ben White (*1965 London, Great Britain) lives and works in London. From 2003 to 2006 he studied at the Central Saint Martins College of Art in London and in the period from 2010 to 2011 he studied at the Chelsea College of Art in London. Over the past years his work has been shown in international solo and group exhibitions.

Solo exhibitions (selection): 2013 Kerstin Engholm Gallery, Vienna; 2012 University of Arts London, The Mews Project Space, London 2008 Studio 1.1; 2005 Bhavan Center, London; 2003 Ben Zion Boulevard, Israel. Group exhibitions (selection): 2012 Kerstin Engholm Gallery, Vienna; 2011 ICA London, APT Gallery, London; 2010 Gallery DS, Belgium; 2009 Saxon Schwartz Gallery, London

Please do not hesitate to contact Kerstin Engholm for further informations under office@kerstinengholm.com or 0043 1 585 7337.