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Tim Noble

Born Stroud 1966

1992-94 Royal College of Art; MA (Sculpture)
1989-92 Dean Clough, Halifax, West Yorkshire; Residency
1986-89 Nottingham Polytechnic; BA (Hons) Degree in Fine Art
1985-86 Cheltenham Art College; Foundation course

Sue Webster

Born Leicester 1967

1989-92 Dean Clough, Halifax, West Yorkshire; Residency
1986-89 Nottingham Polytechnic; BA (Hons) Degree in Fine Art
1985-86 Leicester Polytechnic; Foundation course

Biography – Tim Noble & Sue Webster

November 2008

Tim Noble and Sue Webster are known for magically transforming garbage into art. They sculpt piles of street rubbish, studio debris, and taxidermy animals into astonishing representations of life with “real” shadows of the artists themselves hovering over their accumulations of discarded objects. These abstract forms mysteriously reverse the abstraction into figuration.

Noble & Webster have created a remarkable group of anti-monuments in their twelve-year career, mixing the strategies of modern sculpture and the attitude of punk to make art from anti-art. Their work derives much of its power from its fusion of opposites, form and anti-form, high culture and anti-culture, male and female, craft and rubbish, sex and violence. It is an art of magic and illusion, but it is also an art of direct experience, by combining elements of sculpture, advertising and the persona, the artists have succeeded in making their lives and the experience of the viewer part of the art.

Their new publication *Polymorphous Perverse*, 2008, documents in beautiful detail their critically acclaimed site-specific project at the Freud Museum, which was nominated for the prestigious South Bank Prize in 2007. The publication provides a fascinating insight into Freud’s theories and how they relate to art practice with critical essays from the distinguished American art historian Linda Nochlin and James Putnam who curated the original exhibition.

In 2007, for outstanding contribution to the international scene of contemporary art Noble & Webster were awarded the ARKEN Prize at Arken, Museum of Modern Art, Copenhagen.

Since their first solo show in London in 1996, *British Rubbish*, Noble & Webster have enjoyed

international recognition with solo exhibitions at The Freud Museum, London, 2006, CAC Malaga, 2005, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 2004, P.S.1/MoMA, New York, 2003, Milton Keynes Gallery, UK, 2002 and Deste Foundation, Athens, 2000. Their first public art installation *Electric Fountain*, was unveiled at Rockefeller Plaza, New York, February 2008. Their work is in the permanent collection of the Arken Museum of Modern Art, Copenhagen; Artis-François Pinault, France; Chaney Family Collection, Houston; Dakis Joannou Collection, Athens; The Goss-Michael Collection, Dallas; Honart Museum, Tehran, Iran; Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver; Project Space 176–The Zabłudowicz Collection, London; Saatchi Collection, London; Samsung Museum, Seoul, Korea; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York.

Publications now available are *Polymorphous Perverse*, a documentation of works exhibited at the Freud Museum, London published by Other Criteria, London, 2008 and *Wasted Youth*, a comprehensive survey of the artists' work from 1996 to 2006, published by Rizzoli in New York.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

Tim Noble & Sue Webster, The Goss-Michael Foundation, Dallas, U.S. 2008

Polymorphous Perverse, Deitch Projects, New York, U.S. 2008

Electric Fountain, Rockefeller Plaza, New York, U.S. 2008

Sacrificial Heart, Gagosian Gallery, Davies Street, London, UK. 2007

Serving Suggestion, The Wrong Gallery, Tate Modern, London, UK. 2007

Polymorphous Perverse, The Freud Museum, London, UK. 2006

The Glory Hole, Bortolami Dayan, New York, U.S. 2005

The Joy of Sex, Kukje Gallery, Seoul, Korea. 2005

Tim Noble & Sue Webster, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, U.S. 2004

Modern Art is Dead, Modern Art, London, UK. 2004

Tim Noble & Sue Webster, P. S.1. MoMA, New York, U.S. 2003

Ghastly Arrangements, Milton Keynes Gallery, UK. 2002

Instant Gratification, Gagosian Gallery, Beverly Hills, U.S. 2001

Masters of the Universe, Deste Foundation, Athens, Greece. 2000

British Wildlife, Modern Art, London, UK. 2000

I Y YOU, Deitch Projects, New York, U.S. 2000

The New Barbarians, Chisenhale Gallery, London, UK. 1999

WOW, Modern Art, London, UK. 1998

Home Chance, 20 Rivington Street, London, UK. 1997

British Rubbish, Independent Art Space, London, UK. 1996

Selected Group Exhibitions

Statuephilia: Contemporary sculptors at the British Museum, The British Museum, London, UK. 2008–2009

Heavy Metal: On the Inexplicable Lightness of a Material, Kunsthalle zu Kiel, Kiel, Germany, 2008–2009

Blickmaschinen (Visual Tactics: Optical Instruments in History and Contemporary Art), Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen, Siegen, Germany; Mücsarnok/Kunsthalle, Budapest, Hungary; Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, Sevilla, Spain, 2008–2009

End Game–British Contemporary Art from the Chaney Family Collection, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, U.S. 2008

True Romance, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, Austria; Museum Villa Stuck, Munich, Germany; Kunsthalle zu Kiel der Christian-Albrechts-Universität, Kiel, Germany. 2007–2008

Fractured Figure–Works from the Dakis Joannou Collection, DESTE Foundation, Athens, Greece. 2007–2008

Pop Art Is..., Gagosian Gallery, Britannia Street, London, UK. 2007

Passage Du Temps–Collection Francois Pinault Foundation, Lille 3000, Lille, France. 2007

Reconstruction #2, Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, UK. 2007

Star Power–Museum as Body Electric, Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, U.S. 2007

Traum & Trauma (Dream & Trauma) –Works from the Dakis Joannou Collection, Museum Moderner Kunst, Vienna, Austria; Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, Austria. 2007

Monument To Now, Dakis Joannou Collection, Athens, 2004

New Blood, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK. 2004

State of Play, The Serpentine Gallery, London, UK. 2004

2001 A Space Oddity, The Colony Room Club Artists' Show, London, UK. 2001

Form Follows Fiction, Castello di Rivoli Museo – d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin, Italy. 2002

Apocalypse – Beauty and Horror in Contemporary Art, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK. 2000

Sex and the British, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Salzburg, Paris, France. 2000

The Hanging Picnic, Hoxton Square, London, UK. 1995

Absolut Art, Royal College of Art, London, UK. 1994

The Fete Worse Than Death, Hoxton Square, London, UK. 1994

Hijack, New York, London, Berlin, Germany. 1994

Lift, Atlantis Basement, Brick Lane, London, UK. 1993

Publications (selected)

Dig!!! Lazarus Dig!!! (60 pp book & 1 track CD). London: Mute Records Limited, 2008

Polymorphous Perverse. London: Other Criteria, 2008

Wasted Youth. New York: Rizzoli International Publications, 2006

The New Barbarians. Málaga: CAC Málaga, 2005

The Joy of Sex. Seoul: Kukje Gallery, 2005

Instant Gratification. Beverly Hills: Gagosian Gallery, 2001

Masters of the Universe: Talking Rubbish. Athens: Deste Foundation, 2000

Sex and the British. Paris, Salzburg: Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, 2000

The New Barbarians. London: Modern Art Inc! 1999

British Rubbish. London: Independent Art Space, 1996