JANUARY 18, 2010 BY RJ RUSHMORE

Mark Jenkins at Carmichael Gallery



This Thursday, LA is in for a treat: The opening of Mark Jenkins' solo show *Meaning Is Overrated* at the Carmichael Gallery.

In January 2010, Carmichael Gallery presents Meaning Is Overrated, a solo exhibition of new hyper realistic conceptual works and site-specific installation pieces by Mark Jenkins that reconsider the aesthetic and practical qualities of the human body. Works range from those in which the human is recast as a specialized object, such as Spokes, which features a tape cast sculpture of a girl fashioned to function as a bike, to those in which human posture is contorted to

resemble that of another animal. Each piece is "an exploration of evolution within the realm of the absurd," says Jenkins.

There will be an opening reception for Meaning Is Overrated on Thursday, January 21 with Jenkins in attendance. The exhibition will run through February 18, 2010.

Mark Jenkins is an internationally acclaimed American artist known for the mixed media sculptures and street installations he places throughout urban and environmental settings, sometimes with, but often without, permission. Playful and enigmatic, his work successfully transforms the ordinary into the unexpected.

Jenkins' process involves dry-casting everything from fire hydrants and toy ducks to baby dolls and people, often himself or his assistants, with box sealing tape, the latter often dressed to appear scarily life-like. When placed outside or slipped indoors, announced or otherwise, these sculptures have the ability to both camouflage into their surroundings and elicit spectacular amounts of attention from viewers.

Jenkins' works have been observed lounging atop billboards, slumped over on cafeteria tables,
panhandling in the streets, emanating from street poles, drowning in bodies of water, clinging to statues, overturning street signs and more in locations such as Belgrade, Vienna, Washington D.C., London, Barcelona, New York, Moscow and Seoul. By situating his pieces within such peculiar contexts, the artist brings cities, landscapes and interiors to life in a unique and thought-provoking manner. Whether indoors or out, his work engages its viewers and provokes a complex examination of self and surroundings.

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