

Brendan Earley "In the Midnight City"

Artist: Brendan Earley

Opening: Saturday, March 2, 2013; 4 - 7pm

Exhibition: March 2, 2013 - April 29, 2013.

Galerie Urs Meile Beijing

Address: No. 104, Caochangdi Cun, Chaoyang District, 100015 Beijing, China

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday: 11:00 - 18:30

Website: www.galerieursmeile.com

Email: beijing@galerieursmeile.com

Telephone: +86 10 6433 3393

Fax: +86 10 6433 0203

Galerie Urs Meile is pleased to announce that we will host "In the Midnight City", a first-in-China exhibition of works by artist Brendan Earley. Earley participated in Galerie Urs Meile's "Artist in Residence" program at our Beijing branch in the period from August to November, 2012. The exhibition will present sculptures and drawings he created during this residency.

In the course of his artistic practice, Brendan Earley uses industrial materials he collects in Beijing, finished products such as fluorescent lights, steel, and plastic ties via which, per the premise of preserving their own functions and texture and through this composite sculptural creation, he explores the uncertainty of sculpture. Just as Earley himself remarks: "These new drawings and sculptures continue to develop my interest in the materiality of the object and images combined with a more conceptualized concern with the legacies of past eras of cultural history and the contextualization of artifacts within the pragmatic approach to design through construction".

In Beijing, Earley accepts with an open mind the information he derives from the urban landscape. In his view, the shape of the urban landscape, in addition to its physical architecture, is also full of a variety of "negative space". For instance, the space covered by unfinished constructions, as well as the space resulting from the distance between different buildings and uncompleted dead zones. He brings different elements from outside into the studio trying to fill the "negative space" in city landscape. The work *Shine a Light* (2012, fluorescent lights, plastic ties, stainless steel and yellow filter paper, 110 x 44 x 22 cm) reproduces this "negative space" to represent his commentary on the urban landscape.

It is noteworthy that Brendan Earley believes that, in the course of urbanization, humans do not adapt themselves to nature anymore, but rather adapt nature to people in order to satisfy the needs of development. In creating art, materials selection and processing, meanwhile become a positive response to such a negative status quo. Earley is adept at collecting a variety of ambient life materials for use, such as in his works exhibited in *Day for Night* (2012, fluorescent lights, plastic ties, acrylic board and blue filter paper, 138 cm high, Ø120 cm base) and *The Midnight Man* (2012, polystyrene, fluorescent lights, plastic ties and blue filter paper, 140 x 33 x 30 cm), which are also materials readily available to any artist in both Dublin and Beijing.

Furthermore, by changing the physical properties of objects in his works, Earley challenges people's visual habits and normal understanding of things. He casts polystyrene filler in metal and porcelain, and thus forces viewers to doubt that "seeing is believing."

Brendan Earley was born in 1971 in Dublin, Ireland, where he lives and works. The exhibition in Beijing is a further exploration of his creative concept in the wake of "A Place Between", held at the Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin, Ireland in 2012.

A leaflet will be published in conjunction with this exhibition.