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I went to school with someone called Jonathon Monk

Jonathan Monk

September 11 – October 18, 2014

Opening: Thursday, September 11, 6-8pm

Casey Kaplan is pleased to announce *I went to school with someone called Jonathon Monk*, an exhibition by Jonathan Monk (b. 1969, Leicester, UK). Monk's work is a continuing engagement with notions of authorship and identity, as he recasts iconic works of art with a consistent and incisive humour.

In this exhibition, Monk's own biography becomes a material as objects assume not only their former contexts, but also their relationship to Monk's own life as an artist. Through this, works themselves become open to misremembrance and approximation. Sited in the first gallery is *A Copy Of Deflated Sculpture No. 1*, a facsimile of Monk's subtly deflated copy of Jeff Koon's iconic inflatable bunny, exhibited in his 2009 exhibition with the gallery, *The Inflated Deflated*. Created from photographic documentation, rather than the original's specifications, the work not only points towards the shifting relationships of the work to Monk himself, but the role these images play in larger structures of commerce and circulation.

This idea carries throughout as Monk navigates his relationship to a wide-ranging group of figures including Carl Andre, Alighiero Boetti, Dan Graham, Paul McCarthy and Paul McCartney, tracing narratives of transformation, and underscoring the myriad of ways in which artworks are evaluated and how objects are embedded in our cultural history. This results in works that function as composite views, which is exemplified in *Three Part Piece (untitled wood destroyed)*. Taking a lost, early wooden sculpture by Carl Andre as its starting point, Monk displays the work in three variations – a charred replica, a photograph of its original condition, as well as video documentation of the work burning. These varied methods of reproduction highlight the almost nebulous connections that shape our complex understanding of an object both as an artwork and a cultural artifact.

In what functions almost as a leveling effect, the same strategies applied to these stalwarts of contemporary art are applied to Monk's own biography. He allows his own story to unfold alongside theirs, while also acknowledging their formative role in his own personal history and development as an artist. Alluding to an interest in Americana, storytelling, and his own impulse to collect, these works often function in sharp and pointed contrast to each other – the high-finish of steel and Plexiglas is placed alongside works with a homespun, kitsch feel. Monk's life is charted on the walls in amassed coins from the year he was born until he left America and found souvenir scarves are sewn to form a map of the United States. A pedestal holds a pristinely carved, white marble skull, dulled on its planes from its former life as his son's eraser. Together, these demonstrate time's passage, and our ability to rebuild and shape history through the accumulated references and artifacts that survive it.

Jonathan Monk's work is currently the subject of a solo exhibition at the Irish Museum of Modern Art. Other recent exhibitions of Jonathan Monk's work include: Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga, Málaga, 2013 (solo), *Less Is More Than One Hundred Indian Bicycles* (with words by Rikrit Tiravanija and a Silver Shadow), Kunstraum Dornbirn, Austria, 2013 (solo), *There are Other Routes than Ours*, Tamayo Contemporary Art Museum, Mexico, 2013, *The Universal Addressability of Dumb Things*, Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, 2013 and *When Attitudes Become Form, Become Attitudes*, Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, USA, traveled to The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, MI, 2012.

For further information, please contact:

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GALLERY HOURS: TUESDAY – SATURDAY, 10:00AM – 6:00PM

UPCOMING: GEOFFREY FARMER, *Cut nothing, cut parts, cut the whole, cut the order of time*. October 30 - December 20

KEVIN BEASLEY, HENNING BOHL, MATTHEW BRANNON, JEFF BURTON, NATHAN CARTER, JASON DODGE, TRISHA DONNELLY, GEOFFREY FARMER, LIAM GILLICK, GIORGIO GRIFFA, ANNIKA VON HAUSSWOLFF, BRIAN JUNGEN, SANYA KANTAROVSKY, MATEO LÓPEZ, JONATHAN MONK, MARLO PASCUAL, DIEGO PERRONE, JULIA SCHMIDT, SIMON STARLING, DAVID THORPE, GABRIEL VORMSTEIN, GARTH WEISER, JOHANNES WOHNSEIFER