

Arundel - Misa :

Reby Maybury & Will Sheldon

My Deep Secret...

Opening: 7th July 2018, 12-2.30PM

Exhibition runs: 7th July – 3rd August 2018

A small room, wallpapered with canvas bearing the work of painter, illustrator, and tattoo artist Will Sheldon. In the center of the room, writer, artist, and dominatrix Reba Maybury has placed a vitrine containing artifacts submitted by her submissives, having asked them for things that reflect their interests and cultural taste. The resulting experience is immersive and museum-like, almost rococo.

As noted by Maybury (Mistress Rebecca to her submissives)—vitrines are most often seen holding “the stolen objects of colonized peoples”. Here instead are donated objects occasionally accompanied by devotional blurbs, little dedications of fear and admiration for their Mistress. Among several portraits done in the likeness of Mistress Rebecca, one screen-print of her visage and neck dominates against a backdrop of the wild cosmos and is punctuated not with a body, but an enormous stiletto PVC boot. We see a framed sheet of Holiday Inn stationary bearing handwritten lyrics to the Red Hot Chili Peppers song “Dosed.” The lyrics are telling of the shallow adoration (and perhaps resentment) this sub feels for the artist: “I got dosed by you, and closer than most to you, and what am I supposed to do, take it away, I never had it anyway...” One photograph from a sub, titled “€350 down the drain”, features his recently purchased “practical” apparel. Jeans and a leather bomber jacket—an expensive, self-conscious and milquetoast derivative of the archetypal mid-century bad boy. The submissives’ oblations are not, in a superficial sense, secretive. Most are ludicrously earnest, but they bely a stagnating self-awareness. The piece is an exploration of absurdity in banality, or as Maybury describes it, “the museum of redundant masculinity.”

Will Sheldon’s brilliantly painted “wallpaper,” as well as other works of his, tend towards a psychedelic playfulness and furtivity. There are sneaky, mischievous, reticent creatures; the objects they spy, snuffle, and pad amongst; and the stirring relationship between them. Sheldon’s work speaks to the original format of a fairy tale—grotesque and slightly hostile. Fractured, oozing eggs and peering, smoldering eyes, bones littered about, stiletto platform boots, flowers, fruit, inscrutable oozes. Some creatures are distinctly feral in their fantasticism. Others are a more anthropomorphized goblinous: narrowed gazes above chic sunglasses, coquettish and slightly smirking, as if in possession of a private joke. A cosmic joke? A quiet joke about you, the voyeur? Both seem feasible. This world engages through peeking out and peeking in, leaving behind a tantalizing and just-inaccessible contact.

Friends and collaborators of several years, both artists’ work consistently explore voyeurism and exhibitionism, sex, the grotesque, fragility, masking, delusion and the “real”, and extracting the latter from the former. Sheldon’s feral sets of eyes are matched in a photograph of Maybury’s, a submissive’s eyes dolefully peering through a surrounding overlay of revolting, Pepto-Bismol-pink opaque paint (“The Colour of My Skin”). The secrets of a non-linear dimension are bolstered and reflected in the brash, cerebral exploration of the privileged male psyche, and vice versa. Each body of work could stand on its own as confrontational and unsettling, witty and bizarre, but the symbiosis of the immensely different styles and mediums create the pleasure of this surreal little museum.

- Molly Edminster

Arndt - Misa :

Worklist

From left to right:

Will Sheldon

The Spiderwebs, 2018

Acrylic paint, canvas, thread & dental floss, fabric: 213 x 578 x 3 cm

Reba Maybury

Precious Expressions, 2018

Wooden painted vitrine containing the precious expressions of Mistress Rebecca's submissive men executed under her orders, perspex cover: 153 x 102 x 91 cm

Precious Expressions 1-13:

1. Say it Loud

Graphic design by the french graphic designer. Digital print on canvas: 40 x 30 cm

2. Work wear

Ann Summers Sexy Secretary Outfit size 16-18. Pencil skirt, sheer shirt and lense-less glasses. Polyester and plastic. Made in China. Bought by Barrel aka Mistress Rebecca's receptionist: 36 x 38cm

3. Taking a walk in his shoes

Leather and lace. Size 44, well worn. Sold and bought in Norway. Made anywhere, walked nowhere. Worn by Barrel: 32 x 22cm

4. Horsey's head

Rubber horse head mask. From Horsey and often worn at night clubs in Essex and on video call to Mistress Rebecca. Made in China: 40 x 29cm

5. Ben

Screen print on paper, depicting The French Hipster Tattooer's abysmal vision of Mistress Rebecca: 43 x 30cm

6. Pinky the Profound

Every Time I Find the Meaning of Life, They Change It - Wisdom of the Great Philosophers on How to Live. Soft back book. With note to Mistress Rebecca. Originally printed in 2015, reprinted in 2017: 20 x 25.5cm

7. Romance is Alive

Lyrics of *Dosed (2002)* by Red Hot Chili Peppers on Holiday Inn paper with envelope by The White Buddhist: 30x21cm

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8. *The sound of Mistress Rebecca's voice is?*

Watercolour on cartridge paper and accompanying essay by Barrel: 29.5 x 47cm

9. *€350 down the drain*

Framed photo. A4. Photo shows the product of a day shopping for new 'practical clothing' bought by Barrel while under financial domination: 30.5 x 21cm

10. *A lovely woman*

Photograph of a framed pencil portrait of Mistress Rebecca digitally printed on canvas. Originally drawn by Screeny: 30 x 20cm

11. *What's his is mine - My office. He works for me.*

Photographic print depicting Barrel's work desk where he works for Mistress Rebecca in Oslo: 50cm x 20.5cm

12. *Style and Attitude....*

V neck blue Henry Choice cotton t-shirt size: L. Donated by Barrel from his wardrobe: 24 x 31cm

13. *'The colour of my skin and respectful eyes for Mistress Rebecca 2018'*

Acrylic, printed paper and pen on canvas with accompanying essay by Pinky: 30x42cm

Will Sheldon

Small Web, 2018

Acrylic paint, canvas, thread & dental floss, fabric: 30 x 23 x 2 cm

Reba Maybury

Submissions, 2018

A4 folder of applications by submissive men to serve Mistress Rebecca.

Will Sheldon

Looking for Eggs, 2018

Acrylic paint, canvas, thread & dental floss: 121.5 x 91 x 2.3 cm

OFFICE:

Will Sheldon

Misty in the Skyline, 2018

Pencil and crayon on paper, framed: 23.5 x 18.5 x 2 cm

Will Sheldon

Tay of Love, 2018

Pencil and crayon on paper, framed: 23.5 x 18.5 x 2 cm

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Will Sheldon

Self Portrait with Misty, 2018

Pencil and crayon on paper, framed: 23.5 x 18.5 x 2 cm

Will Sheldon

The Masterpiece, 2018

Pencil and crayon on paper, framed: 43 x 39 x 7 cm

Reba Maybury

Office Piece, 2018

Artefact from Barrel's office, created under direction by Mistress Rebecca. Framed digital print of hi-res image sourced online: 61 x 41 x 2 cm

Will Sheldon

Bee Sniffer, 2018

Watercolour and pen on paper, framed: 33.5 x 43.5 x 3 cm

Will Sheldon

Lazy Day, 2018

Watercolour, gouache, pen on paper, framed: 33.5 x 43.5 x 3 cm