

Oliver Cain | Relatively Fruity

26 Sep 2020
to 14 Oct 2020

26th Sept - 12 Oct

Oliver Cain's debut
Exhibition

Event type:
Art

Price:
FREE

Venue:
Foenander
Galleries

Address:
455 Mt Eden Road,
Mt Eden, Auckland

Region:
Auckland

Post date:
Saturday,
September 19,
2020 - 12:04



Foenander Galleries is proud to present Oliver Cain's debut Exhibition: Relatively Fruity. Cain is an emerging artist who won four awards over a five month period in 2019, all before he graduating from Unitec in February 2020. His exquisitely crafted works, with their wit and playfulness, gently touch on confronting and challenging issues around sexuality, gender and identity.

He pushes ideas and feelings around using different materials, adding a more personal and tactile experience to his work. He enjoys pushing the viewer into an uncomfortable space but not over the edge – wanting them to experience something different or to simply step back and to think about a topic in a different light.

"Every once in a while, you are confronted with artworks that possess a strangely playful but vital presence. The architect of this frivolous oeuvre is Oliver Cain, an English born New Zealand artist. His artworks, subverted linguistic paintings, ceramic sculptures and installations, bear a certain physicality and push the boundaries between conceptualism and post-pop art. The creative process behind Cain's artworks is the most important thing and therefore his artworks can be made of anything and take any form. Appropriated everyday objects transform stereotypes, and art historical references become subverted. As proud member of the queer community, the artist uses his work to examine, question and criticize the relationships between gender, sexuality and societies' misconceptions about those themes. But, despite what it might look like to the contemporary spectator, a purely queer reading of the work would be misguided. There is a universal profundity at play revealing itself slowly for those willing to look and feel." Arthur Buerms

Links:

<https://www.foenandergalleries.co.nz/exhibition/oliver-cain/>

CONCRETE PLAYGROUND



Relatively Fruity

This exhibition explores themes of gender and queer identity through linguistic paintings and morphed ceramics.

WHEN

Thursday, September 24 -
Thursday, October 15, 2020

WHERE

Foenander Galleries
455 Mount Eden Road, Auckland

PRICE

FREE

In Oliver Cain's new exhibition *Relatively Fruity* he explores themes of gender and queer identity through linguistic paintings, comically morphed appropriated objects and body parts, in a variety of materials.

The exhibition is running at Mount Eden's Foenander Galleries from September 24 to October 15 with new ceramics of everyday objects, such as highly glossed white milk cartons and bowls engorged by bananas, and provoking works like a series of stretched nipples made from bubble gum.

Oliver's work is known for pushing the boundaries between conceptualism and post-pop art. Each of the works gently nudge the viewer into an uncomfortable space but not over the edge – instead encouraging them to experience something different and deeper.

Index

Oliver Cain, @FÖENANDER

Who

Oliver Cain

When

26 September — 5 October

Where

Föenander Galleries, 455 Mt Eden Rd, Mt Eden, Auckland

What

Highly influenced by pop art, English-New Zealand artist, Oliver Cain has a style which has been described as fun, playful and seemingly light-hearted, but upon closer inspection has far more serious undertones. *Relatively Fruity* explores themes of gender and queer identity through linguistic paintings, comically morphed appropriated objects and body parts, in a variety of materials.

The exhibition features a variety of new ceramic works featuring everyday objects such as a series of highly glossed white milk cartons and bowls, engorged by bananas. Bananas are also seen in Cain's *Fruit Bowl*, a life-size urinal completely filled with them.

Cain's work pushes the boundaries between conceptualism and post-pop art. Each of the works

delicately teeter on the public and private or seriousness and levity. Cain has a remarkable ability to gently nudge the viewer into an uncomfortable space but not over the edge — instead encouraging them to experience something different and deeper.

This is exemplified in the small-scale, candy-coloured framed ceramic sculptures which invite closer inspection to discover they are indeed cast nipples. In this instance the private is secure and framed. This meaning isn't shared with *Chewed Encounters*, a series of stretched Dali-esque nipples made from bubble gum, which reference the disposability or how expendable some personal encounters are, despite how private the moment shared might have been.

FOENANDERGALLERIES.CO.NZ



Many Chewed Encounters by Oliver Cain, 2020.



VIVA



Relatively Fruity, Föenander Galleries



Relatively Fruity opens September 24. Photo / Supplied.

Pop-art is often peppered with satire and humour, and the same can be said for the work of English/New Zealand artist, Oliver Cain, whose work - while at first glance might seem whimsical - has more serious undertones. His latest exhibition *Relatively Fruity* explores themes of gender and queer identity through paintings and ceramic works that takes everyday objects like milk cartons and bananas and reimagines them in an entirely whimsical way. *Relatively Fruity*, opens 24 September -5 October. Foenandergalleries.co.nz/