



May 15, 2018 by Giulia Trojano

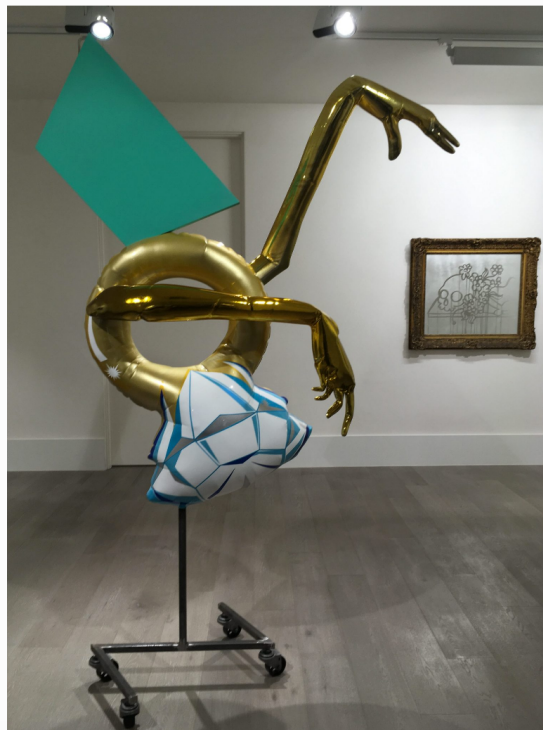
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My week in the art world — Mayfair treats

Finally I concluded my week at Sophia Contemporary for the opening of Uncanny Memories. The six contemporary artists on show have created works that are undoubtedly fun and irreverent in their exploration of the surreal and the uncanny.



Left to right: Adam Parker-Smith – Mountains of Ice and Vanitas

The most immediately striking work is Parker Smith's Mountains of Ice – an extravagant abstract figure, it's golden arms pointing to the side, inviting us in. Once drawn into the room, the sculpture invites us to walk around it, observing more of Parker Smith's works, namely Vanitas and Amphora. The artists seems to revel in combining features of classical art with contemporary mixed media, generating humorous pastiches of sorts.

In a similar vein we find Matt Lipps's prints presenting metaphysical compositions such as Portrait II, not dissimilar to de Chirico's, with art historical references and beautiful cut outs inhabiting these surreal worlds. We see a similar play on the classical and the contemporary in Matthew Hansel's oil paintings with wonderful attention being paid to the hues in Seeing Double, Feeling Nothing.



Theo Mercier, Lamentations

An artist whose works I was particularly excited to see was Jonathan Baldock (see [here](#) for a previous review). With an upcoming solo exhibition at Camden Arts Centre he is truly unstoppable. Here we find two works, Stick in the Eye (Blue) and (Brown) – seemingly playful at first until we grasp how disquieting large scaled eye balls pierced by a stick can be.

One of the works I was most fond of was Theo Mercier's Lamentations. Here the three wooden vases, each on their individual pillar, radiate distinctive personalities. Their coyote teeth are the perfect macabre twist, giving them an unpredictably threatening quality – as if they were about to come to life.

Finally the show concluded with Genesis Belanger's sculptures that blend key features from both pop and surrealist art.



Genesis Belanger, Best Blue #1

Belanger allows her materials to defy their conventional characteristics, enhancing their unnatural, dream like quality. Her steel and concrete cigarette, climbing down the ladder with its undulated skin, appears to be far more malleable, assuming the features of a living organism. Likewise her porcelain lighter in Flick seems to mock us as it sticks out its tongue, in the form of a flame.

Visitors of Uncanny Memories will undoubtedly feel energised by the show as these young contemporaries present vivacious works blurring the lines between reality and imagination.

Uncanny Memories is on at [Sophia Contemporary](#) until 23 June 2018