

DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum to present Gary Webb's first US museum exhibition

January 2, 2012 by All Art News
Filed under Sculpture

LINCOLN, MA.- DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum announces it will present British sculptor Gary Webb's first US museum exhibition next summer. An exciting and established young contemporary sculptor in England, Webb is wellknown for his use, often in a single artwork, of myriad materials including steel, aluminum, glass, mirror, plastic, brass, wood, brick, spray paint, fabrics, and assorted found objects. For Gary Webb: Mister Jeans, on view May 27 through August 13, 2012, deCordova will present a survey of Webb's recent work including two new outdoor sculptures designed by the artist specifically for deCordova's Museum Entrance Plaza.

Gary Webb: Mister Jeans is the third in a planned series of major solo sculpture exhibitions to be held each summer at deCordova. Chakaia Booker: In and Out in 2010 and Ursula von Rydingsvard: Sculpture in 2011 support the institution's strategic goal to become a leading venue for contemporary sculpture, both indoors and outdoors. Gary Webb: Mister Jeans, deCordova's first solo exhibition dedicated to the work of a nonAmerican artist, also bolsters the institution's new international reach and augments newer additions to the Sculpture Park by Antony Gormley, Jaume Plensa, and Laura Ford.



Gary Webb, *Libra*, 2006. Perspex, two pence pieces, plastic, chrome, fabric, 65 x 52 x 18.1 inches / 165 x 132 x 46 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Bortolami Gallery, New York, NY.

"I am particularly thrilled about deCordova's upcoming Gary Webb show for two reasons," remarked Nick Capasso, Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs. "First of all, I have never seen anything like his artwork, which is a rare and exciting experience for a curator of contemporary sculpture. It is not the novelty per se that I find so attractive, but the sheer joy and bizarre fun of the whole enterprise. Second, this will be Gary's first American museum exhibition—an important career benchmark for this artist and a major step for deCordova as well. Gary Webb: Mister Jeans is deCordova's very first solo exhibition of a major non-American contemporary artist."

Webb creates enigmatic objects that play games with the tradition of Modernist abstraction while commenting on twenty-first century consumer culture. The riot of materials he uses in his work is matched by his exuberant use of color and the compositional complexity of his sculptures, which walk a knife-edge between order and chaos. References to Modern Masters such as Joan Miró, Anthony Caro, and Donald Judd ricochet throughout Webb's work, which is also informed by high-end furniture design, retail display, the vulgarity of mass-produced objects and advertising, and scads of bling. Overall, Webb's sculptures are joyful, funny, playful, bizarre, and reflect a truly unrestrained creative imagination. The exhibition's subtitle, "Mister Jeans" reflects the artist's somewhat surreal sensibility.

Gary Webb was born in 1973 in Bascombe, Dorset, UK, and currently lives and works in London. He received a BA in Fine Art from Goldsmiths College, London, and is represented by the Bortolami Gallery in New York and The Approach in London. His last major museum exhibition, *Mirage of Loose Change* (2005–2006) was organized by the Kunsthhaus Glarus and Centre d'Art Contemporain Geneva, Switzerland, and Le Consortium Dijon, France. Webb's work is included in the collections of the TATE Gallery Collection, United Kingdom; the Arts Council Collection, United Kingdom; the British Council, United Kingdom; the Government Art Collection, United Kingdom; S.M.A.K., Ghent, Belgium; the Musée départemental d'art contemporain, Rochechouart, France; and the Fonds régional d'art contemporain des Pays de la Loire, Carquefou, France.

"DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum to Present Gary Webb's First US Museum Exhibition."
All Art News - Art News for Art Lovers. 2 Jan. 2012. Web. 5 Jan. 2012.
<<http://www.allartnews.com/decordova-sculpture-park-and-museum-to-present-gary-webbs-first-us-museum-exhibition/>>.