

Galerie Rompone

Nicholas Imms „Wood Vibes“ solo show

22. April - 10. Juni 2023

When you look at your oeuvre do you have subjects and themes that are constantly to be found in your sculptures?

„I definitely have recurring themes. The inner and outer form and the “dot study” which I don't tire of keep turning up and have become quite popular with collectors. My work certainly has a mid-century feel to it. The commercial design of the late fifties and sixties has always wowed me and I try to re-create that feeling.“

Why is wood and plywood attracting you so much that you dedicated to carving and sculpturing in the late 1990ties?

„Wood has fascinated me since I started carving it by chance in the late '90's. I had found a space where I could spread out with my hobby at the time: stop motion clay animation. I'm self taught. For many years I worked part time in the restauration business to support my art.

The tenant before me was a woodcarver who had left several good chunks of elm-wood behind and after a few months I decided to try carving his leftovers. With newly bought gouges and a mallet I started with absolutely no idea what I was doing. That was the end of my animation. Most woodtypes become beautiful once they have been sliced by a chisel or gouge. I like how different sorts have their own characteristics and smells. Hardwoods have a lovely resistance and shine. They are so pleasing and tactile.“

Is there any relationship between your job you did before and the wood carving now?

„For several years I was working incognito as a street artist in Copenhagen. The wood pieces I was putting up in public gained some interest and I ended up being commissioned to decorate large plywood fences. I did so with the same type of plywood which led in turn to my concentration on this material.“

While carving, do the plywood and wood show you your limits ?

„Solid wood has more limitations at the thin and delicate end of my carving spectrum. Plywood is incredibly strong and versatile due to the layers of the wood. It is not nearly as enjoyable to carve but is more immediate and physically easier work. Luckily I don't often feel limited with the plywood.“

What is the vibe you like to transport in your work?

„Groovy colours. It might look playful but I'm very serious about the colour palettes. The works have to give me a buzz once they're done and some colours just work better than others. I would really like to transfer that buzz to the viewer.“

You're an englishman in Copenhagen. How does this influence your aesthetic choices you maybe make consciously or even subconsciously?

„I moved to Copenhagen in 1992 and very quickly felt at home. The feeling of being foreign I lost long ago but I do still feel different. If this appears in my work, I've no idea. I do however love the cool clean lines of mid-century and earlier Danish design. Finn Juhl, Poul Kjærholm and Børge Mogensen created jems!“

Some of your sculptures are called „Fellas“. One could presume that you have a good relationship with them?

„When I made the Small Fellas I was filled with joy and thought they were lovely. Yes, they almost felt like buddies. In general I am loving every piece I work on. Some of them I still think fondly of.“

Nicholas Imms:

*1968, Worcester, England

Bildhauer/ sculptor

ausgewählte Ausstellungen/ selected exhibitions:

2003

Debut at "Kunstnernes Efterårsudstilling".(Prestigious juried exhibition).

2005

Solo show: "Træsplash", Det Hemmelige Galleri, Herning

"Multhy-Mini", Det Ny Kastet, Thisted.

2011

"Art Copenhagen", Forum, with Overgaden Institut for Samtidskunst.

2016

"Backyard", Gallery Hjorth, Horsens.

"December i Galerie Pi", Copenhagen.

2018

"Cover", eks-rummet, Copenhagen.

"Østerbrosalonen", Copenhagen.

2019

"Let's Live Like Lions", Galerie Wolfsen, Aalborg.

Solo exhibition "My Plywood Groove", eks-rummet, Copenhagen

2020

"Frederiks Salonen", Copenhagen.

"DaDaDa", Galerie Rompone, Köln,

"Sommershow", Galerie Parnasse, Aarhus.

"Phoenix: The Resurrection Show", Galerie Rompone, Köln,

"December i Galerie Pi", Copenhagen.

"Vinterudstilling", Galleri A, Lønstrup,

2021

"JOY", Galleri kbh kunst, Copenhagen.

"Efterårsudstilling", Galerie 18A, Kolding,

"Svaret På Alt", Hesede Hovedgård,

"Gelée Royale", Galerie Rompone, Köln.

2022

"Lotus Eaters", Galleri kbh kunst, Copenhagen.

"Summer Group Show", Galleri kbh kunst.

"Salone Rompone", Galerie Rompone, Köln.

"KBH Exit 2022", Galleri kbh kunst.