

Press Release



GERALD MOORE
GALLERY

at Eltham College

Muscle Memory

20 May 2021 – 10 July 2021

Open to public: Tuesday 4pm - 7pm, Saturday 10am - 4pm or by appointment.

Private View: Thursday 20 May, 5pm-8pm

Tickets must be booked in advance at www.geraldmoregallery.org

Gerald Moore Gallery, Mottingham Ln, London SE9 4RW



Muscle Memory,
Nathan Anthony, 2020.

Muscle Memory is an exhibition which brings together new artworks that exist variously as sculptures, prints and as crossovers between the two disciplines. These were developed by Nathan Anthony during his time as Artist-in-Residence at Eltham College since September 2019.

Regardless of their medium, all the works were made in series through iterative processes to eventually form typologies. Indeed, it was via the sustained and physically repetitive nature of each artwork's production, that a set of associative possibilities had time to gradually emerge, amass and form connections. These invocations often seem to point both inwardly; narrating the way in which the work came into being, but also externally to specific occurrences and objects in the world; the two divergent paths of thought always entangled and inseparable.

For instance, in the series *Raw Meat/Salad & Fruit*; intaglio ink prints made from the scored surfaces of colour coded chopping boards that were found outside the school kitchens, a group of indexical images is presented that might incidentally chronicle the exacting knife skills of a stressed *legumier* or *boucher* in a *brigade de cuisine*. Equally the works could be viewed as from the oeuvre of a particular artistic persona, perhaps that of an earnest introspective printmaker deeply engaged with gestural mark-making; imposters doing impressions of expression.

Elsewhere in the setting of an abandoned exercise class *Muscle Memory*, a grouping of Newplast clad surfaces record in relief the transit of cast and carved foam rollers over them, in an echo of the ancient glyptic imprinting techniques used to make clay seals, but at an absurdly inflated scale.

Similarly, the materiality of the sequence *FT 30/09/2008 p35-45*; bisque fired and screen-printed paper clay versions of the Financial Times stocks and shares indexes from a specific day, parallels that of clay tablets inscribed with cuneiform script in early forms of accounting that tracked goods like livestock and grain. In their brittle and fragile states, the works might be said to literalise frozen liquidity.

The approach of serial making reaches its apex in *All a test until laid to rest*; a collection of oversized ceramic glaze test tiles made using as many glazes as possible from the school's art department. In making a feature of what is normally a small and insignificant form conventionally used only to trial for reference the effects of glazes in the kiln, the work is permanently poised in the unfettered space of possibility between preparation and execution, genesis and resolution, pure potentiality forever awaiting articulation.

Nathan Anthony (born 1991, Haywards Heath) completed a joint MA (Hons) in Fine Art & Art History at Edinburgh University in 2014. He was included in the 2016/2017 Jerwood Drawing Prize, and had a solo exhibition at Generator Projects, Dundee in 2017. He was Artist in Residence at Christ's Hospital School, West Sussex from 2017 - 2019, and has been Artist in Residence at Eltham College since September 2019. His work utilises sculpture, print and moving image to reroute the conventional associations of everyday objects and materials for poetic reconsideration.

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Gerald Moore Gallery

Gerald Moore Gallery is a free contemporary art gallery uniquely set within the grounds of Eltham College, and is a valuable resource for the students and the local community. The gallery has gained momentum since opening in 2012, hosting some exciting exhibitions including works by Matisse, Louise Bourgeois and Cornelia Parker, whilst supporting emerging local artists. In unison with the exhibitions, the gallery's outreach programme works with local community groups, teachers and schools, creating lasting relationships with our locality. Gerald Moore Gallery was made possible with the foresight and generosity of Old Elthamian, Dr Gerald Moore, many of whose works are on permanent display at the gallery.

geraldmooregallery.org

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