



NICOLE EISENMAN

Tis but a scratch' 'A scratch?! Your arm's off!' 'No, it isn't'

29 September – 1 December 2012

Studio Voltaire presents a new commission by American artist Nicole Eisenman. The exhibition is the artist's first major solo show in a UK public gallery and follows her participation in the 2012 Whitney Biennial.

For her presentation at Studio Voltaire, the artist has created a series of large-scale sculptures mainly made from plaster, all of which have been made onsite during a month long residency in the gallery. Predominantly known as a painter, Eisenman's new works continue a fascination with the figure, as well as the spaces they inhabit and the interaction with one and other. Expanding from these ideas of the figure and how it operates, we are presented with a series of sculptures making particular yet absurdly familiar movements and actions.

Whether sleeping, walking, texting, kissing or in some form of dance, the figures represent particular gestures, or a visual language for performing or acting something out. Through the rough use of materials, the works do not hide how they have been constructed. You get an idea of how the artist has worked, what it is to assemble a body, and by extension how the body is made. The crude visibility of construction apparent in the figures points to how we physically experience materials. The artist explains: *"I'm thinking about touch and desire as I'm making the work. The way the material feels, the temperature of the body, the delicacy and strength... There is something very sensuous about this material, these bodies, the act of rubbing and the visceral sexiness of touch and texture combined with the weight of the plaster and the mysterious heat it generates, it's dreamy work."*

Eisenman has been inspired by queer and intersex bodies, with the gender ranges from non-existent/neutral to uncertain to *trans* to *Amazon*. The work not only celebrates the body, but it can also be understood as a challenge to the idea of the classical body. Following Mikhail Bakhtin's principle of grotesque realism, Eisenman lowers all that is abstract and idealised to the material level. We are presented with bodies that celebrate the corporal and the social.

Supported by the Nicole Eisenman Exhibition Circle: Adam Clayton, Harald Falckenberg, Valeria & Gregorio Napoleone and Michael Ringier. With kind support from Brooklyn Beer.

About the artist:

Eisenman (born 1965 in Verdun, France, now lives and works in New York) has had recent solo exhibitions at Susanne Vielmetter, Los Angeles (2011), Le Plateau, Paris and Kunsthalle Zürich, Zürich (both 2007). The artist has also has

participated in many group presentations including Whitney Biennial, New York; Jewish Museum, New York; MOMA, New York; Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid and Ludwig Museum, Cologne. Eisenman is represented by Galerie Barbara Weiss, Berlin; Leo Koenig Inc., New York and Susanne Vielmetter, Los Angeles.