

Common Uncommon

Single channel video, 6 minute, 2007-8

“*Common Uncommon* looks at what might be common in one culture, in this case, instances captured during the artist’s residencies in China and Denmark, and simultaneously uncommon in another, such as his home country, Canada. Sounds and images are further explored by slowing down the playing speed until the common and understood becomes uncommon. The video is a document that takes unusual cultural experiences that occur in mere seconds and draws them out to be savoured for their remarkable visual and auditory qualities.”

- IJ

Bag Suite in 4/4 Time, 2007-8

Porcelain, used retail shelving, fluorescent light fixtures, hemp rope, plastic bags

“An homage to the plastic bag and contemporary retail culture, *Bag Suite in 4/4 Time* gives form to a controversial object facing extinction. Like many of the other objects explored in the *Refuse Culture* project, the plastic bag, a seemingly innocuous utilitarian article, when multiplied by the massive number of its users, exists at an unimaginable scale in the environment. *Bag Suite* consists of over 300 slip cast porcelain vessels made at the Pottery Workshop Experimental Factory in China during a residency in 2007. The vessels were formed by pouring liquid plaster into a plastic bag. The lone gold vessel, the individual user, rests on a pillow of red plastic bags that were smuggled out of China in late 2007.”

Cellular Brick Road, 2007-2010

Porcelain, plywood, synthetic hair

“Over the last twenty years the development of cellular phone technology and design has been frenzied and fickle. Entire countries that previously had little or no form of telecommunication now have vast networks. The resulting benefits have ranged from life sustaining to banal; from being used as a tool to save lives and organize political movements to checking the contents of the fridge from down the block.

The tiles were made in Philadelphia using press moulds cast from a series of discarded phones circa 2005-2007. The outdated style of the phones is a testament to the swift development and reinvention of the form designed to keep pace with fashion.”

Maw, 1996-2010

Aluminum cowling, used guitar strings, polyester fabric, grommets

“Although mostly made of metal *Maw* was inspired by the idea of oceanic gyres as vortexes for plastic refuse and the bottomless appetite of global consumer culture.

Maw combines the salvaged cowling of a small airplane with over three thousand used guitar strings. The strings were and continue to be salvaged from the workshop of local guitar maker Doug Thompson since 1996.”

- IJ

Re-Inventions of Convenience, 2007-2010

Vinyl

“The slot machine was initially made of cast iron and over its hundred plus years has been reinvented countless times. Most often its reinvention was spurred by loopholes and language peculiarities of gambling laws that were also repeatedly changing in response to clever machine manufacturers.

The objects in these slot windows represent some of the most ingenious and often discarded inventions of the twentieth century. This piece is the ninth and final piece in the *Refuse Culture: Archaeology of Consumption* series of works. It represents the literal point of departure from this project toward the beginning of a new project that will focus on the optimism, naivety and hope of invention and discovery.”