



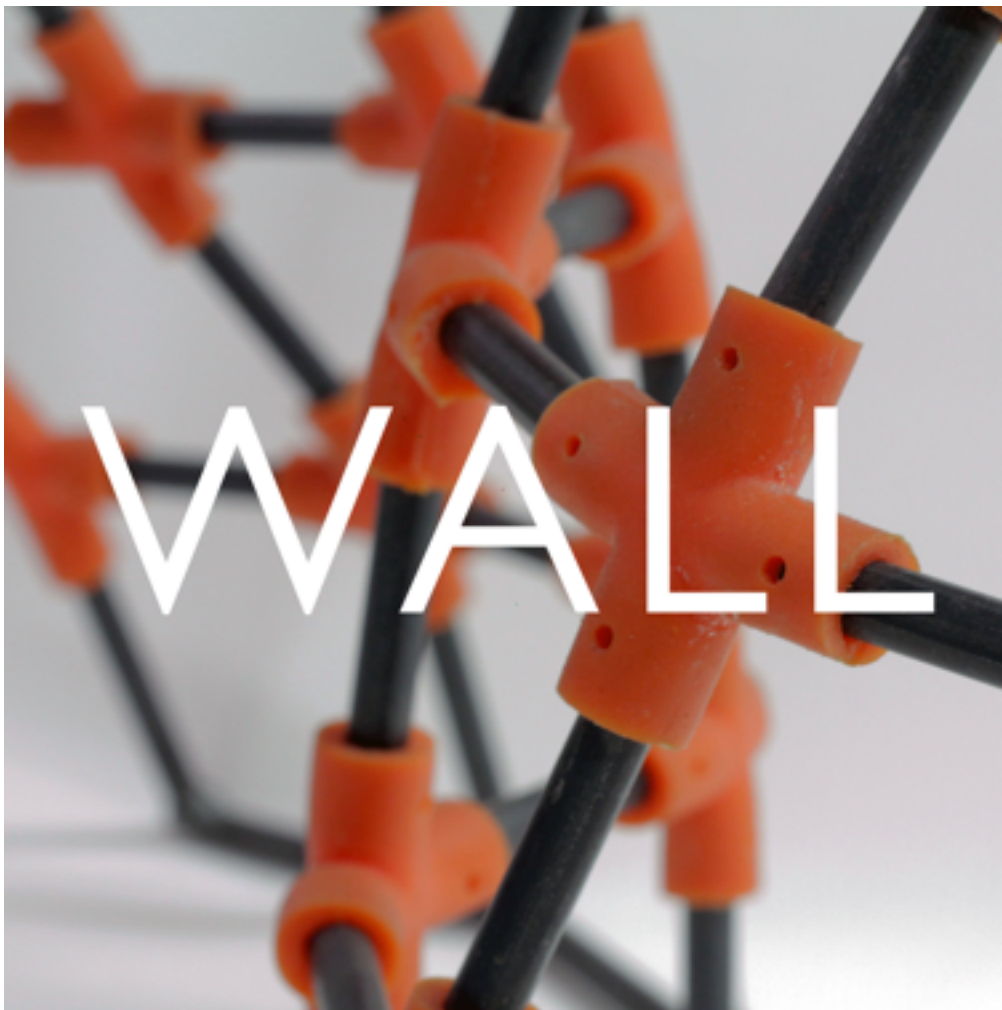
William Benington Gallery
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William Benington Gallery presents
WALL
A solo show of works by Luke Hart

31 March – 14 May 2014
Private view: 31 March 6pm

OPENING HOURS
Wednesday to Friday 11am – 6pm, Saturday 11am – 5pm



Further images and information available on request.

For all enquiries, please contact:
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William Benington Gallery is pleased to announce a solo installation by Luke Hart. This will be the largest and most ambitious single installation that we have had in the gallery to date. It is the artist's first solo show with the gallery.

"All art is quite useless"

Oscar Wilde - The Picture of Dorian Gray

WALL is a single sculpture that fills and interrupts the gallery, forcing the gallery-visitor to engage physically with both the artwork and the exhibition space. This relationship between his sculptures and their surroundings is an on going concern of Hart's practice. As a viewer we are impressed by the very mass of the sculpture, gravity appears to pull heavily upon it dragging it and distorting it as it twists to fill the space. There is a sense that Hart has pushed his sculpture right to the edge of its structural limitations, but ultimately has retained just enough control to hold it from the edge of collapse.

In a very real sense, Hart is wrestling with the capabilities of the production and engineering knowhow available to him, going so far as to invent new techniques. Since 2011 he has been developing his distinctive joining method, a vivid orange organic tangle of toughened rubber tendrils, that allows just enough flex while also giving his sculptures structural stability. Each of these joints is crafted in Hart's London studio. The initial moulds are carved by hand, he then uses a self designed injection-moulding system to force the rubber into the moulds. Each stage of the process is overseen by the artist to ensure that his exacting standards are maintained throughout.

Ultimately Luke Hart's practice represents a meeting point between the sculptural and the functional – that is not to say, necessarily, useful or practical. His sculptures exist beyond simple aesthetic or even representational concerns, they are without metaphor; their functionality challenges the idea of the traditional 'art-object', or perhaps their artistic endeavour is their function. In this instance, function is about more than use-value. There is a sense of the word, that the physical action performed by an object, can be said to be its function, even if that action is as simple as leaning or flexing.

WALL is a bold statement of artistic intent, it is an examination the sculptors' dual roles as artist and maker, and it confronts the assumed knowledge of the purpose of art, but in the end it is also a wall. It is a barrier, a separator of us and them, an obstacle to be scaled. It is a challenge. Perhaps, after all, it is a metaphor?

About the Artist:

Luke Hart is a sculptor living and working in London. He was raised in Chicago before moving to New York to study at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. In 2013 he complete an MA in Sculpture that the Royal College of Art in London. Notable shows and awards include the *Bursary Award* at the Royal British Society of Sculptors, *Fabricators* at Hannah Barry (also featuring James Capper, Alex Chinneck and Sam Zealey), *Joinery* at Tim Sheward Projects and *Proving Ground: Prototyping* at Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Full CV available on request.

About the gallery:

William Benington Gallery is London's only specialist contemporary sculpture gallery, owned and run by George Marsh and Laura Mingozi-Marsh.

As well as our London gallery, William Benington Gallery also curated and organised three editions of a successful sculpture park in West Devon. Sculptural 2012, 2013 and 2015. These were large-scale outdoor exhibitions at the Coombe Trenchard estate, showcased an eclectic and ambitious mix of contemporary British talent.

In 2013, the Gallery put down roots at its first permanent space on Arlington Way, Clerkenwell. In the time since, we have presented a program of contemporary sculpture and design with a particular focus on emerging artists from the UK. The majority of our exhibitions are solo presentations by artists who are at a turning point or developmental stage of their practice. We try to capture the moment when an artist is most excited about a new idea, and allow them to take the risks necessary for them to realise it.

As well as our in-house exhibitions, William Benington Gallery has contributed to various external projects including Sculpture in the City, a public exhibition of contemporary sculpture within the Square Mile of the City of London; and an ongoing collaboration with menswear fashion house, E. Tautz. This included curating an exhibition of works to compliment their new collection for London Collections, Men's Fashion Week 2015.

In 2017 we will be opening a new sculpture park just out of West London.