



Wright Refracted (Orange) | 2014 | Oil on Belgian linen | 65 x 50 inches

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PRISM

ROBIN ELEY

OCTOBER 18 – NOVEMBER 29, 2014

OPENING OCTOBER 18, 6 - 8 PM

101/EXHIBIT is proud to present *Prism*, a solo show by Australian artist-in-residence Robin Eley. The show will feature an installation comprised of nine new oil on Belgian linen works and five innovative 3D-printed photopolymer sculptures. The exhibition will be accompanied by a 32-page show catalog featuring an essay written by Venita Poblocki, curator and visual arts coordinator for the Willoughby City Council in Sydney, Australia.

The opening reception with the artist will be held on Saturday, October 18th, from 6 – 8pm, and the exhibition will conclude on November 29th. *Prism* will be located at the 101/EXHIBIT Hollywood space, located at 6205 Santa Monica Blvd on the corner of North El Centro Ave, one block east of Vine St.

The realist/geometric abstract hybrid paintings and crystalline sculptures of Robin Eley present an understanding of identity constructed as much by visual reality as by technology. *Prism's* juxtaposition of traditional oil on canvas portraiture with 3D-printed synthetic avatars looks to challenge the presumed separation between today's physical and digital self. In a marked transition from his concentrated photorealistic painting, Robin Eley's work is now compelled not only by its meticulous execution but also its quality of lingering detachment.

Every work in the *Prism* series begins with a digital model of each subject built on the 3D software platform Maya that has been simplified into an economic low-poly framework. This "wire frame," as he refers to it, articulates enough visual information to function as a portrait, but lacks any nuance of convincing human identity. Maximizing the synthetic nature of this process, the digital frame is 3D printed in a series of interlocking photopolymer pieces, painstakingly sanded, glued and hand-polished, to make an expressionless transparent bust. The clear prism casts no shadow, and lends little information about the person it represents. In a comment on our increasingly important digital identities, the prism is unrecognizably entrancing yet wholly empty, only refracting, reflecting and distorting the information from its surroundings.

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The abstracted digital portraits (upon which the prisms are based) then become the framework for the faceted, color spectrum portraits. Each a manifestation of a single color taken from the color spectrum as well as black and white, Robin Eley's paintings vibrantly defy their own careful execution -- the realism of the figures distorted by their own technological malleability. Here, the rendered wire frame is superimposed over flesh -- both enhancing and obscuring the human likeness beneath.

Born in 1978 in London, England, Robin Eley and his family migrated to Australia in 1981. He then moved to the United States to attend Westmont College in Santa Barbara, CA, where he earned a Bachelor's of Fine Art in 2001. Eley's work is currently featured in the Fort Wayne Museum of Art Contemporary Realism Biennial, where he was awarded an Invited Artist Juror Merit Award, and will also be included in an upcoming exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery of Australia. His solo exhibitions include *Idolatry* (2013) and, *Singularity* (2012) both held at Hill Smith Gallery in Adelaide, South Australia. Eley has also shown previously at the inaugural 101/EXHIBIT group show, *Koi No Yokan* (2013) and *Journeys* at the Ridley Tree Museum of Art in California (2012).

Robin Eley has been a finalist in numerous Australian art prizes, most notably Runner Up (2010) and Highly Commended (2011) in the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, the world's richest prize for portraiture. In addition, he has also been a finalist in the Archibald Prize (2012) and the Eutick Memorial Still Life Art Prize (2010, 2012). In 2012 he was the recipient of an International Presentation Grant from Arts SA, enabling him to accept the artist residency invitation extended to him by 101/EXHIBIT here in Los Angeles. Eley's work is held in numerous private art collections around the world and has recently been acquired publicly by the Ridley Tree Museum of Art in the United States. Eley currently works and resides in Los Angeles, California.

101/EXHIBIT was founded in 2008 in Miami, FL. Named after its original location, 101 NE 40th St., the gallery actively represents an international group of prolific emerging and established contemporary artists. Initially built around artists who emphasize the human form and figurative concerns, the gallery program embraces unparalleled craft, counter trend experimentation, New Media, and deviations into abstraction, installation-forward, and object-based works to expand the greater initiative of the program.