

CLARK ADDIS: DICKS. ALSO OTHER THINGS.

Grossmann gallery is pleased to present the new work by Clark Addis *Dicks. Also Other Things.*

Dicks. Also Other Things. is, in part, a collection of strange and exotic representations of the phallus. The collection also displays related objects that comment on masculinity, femininity and sexual identity. This haphazard assemblage is imagined to belong to a socially ostracized collector who has spent their life cataloging and amassing this stockpile of identity artifacts. Throughout Addis's work, the materials, the shelves, the pedestals, and the hanging of the objects are intentionally misaligned, unkempt, and imperfect. This is to emphasize the private, non-judgmental, and intuitively assembled collection that the viewer is peering into.



This collection is also aimed to oversaturate the viewer with phallic imagery to strip it of previous associations and dismantle the power that the penis holds. The dick is attacked, restrained and smashed. The dick is also used as support and integral to the structural integrity of the piece. This juxtaposition is aimed to confuse the viewer and dismantle the dick's ordinary context. With this new context, the viewer is encouraged to reexamine their relationship with the phallus. As Addis says in his manifesto *How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Dick*

“Do not love the dick. Do not hate the dick. Do not envy the dick. Do not diminish the dick. Do not deify the dick. Do not vilify the dick. The dick is the dick. Do not decide what your relationship with the dick is. Be a student of the dick -- Observe it.”

Dicks are hidden in obvious and nonobvious places throughout the pieces. Which pieces are phallic and which are a-phallic is left ambiguous to encourage the viewer to search for, and perhaps find dicks in places where none was intended. This serves as a commentary on the relationship between labels and identity. Once an identity is understood, it causes confusion for both the labeled and the labeler.

Mirrors are used throughout to emphasize the collaborative nature of identity. That sexual or gender identity is not just defined by those within that identity, but also those without -- that the actions of both the observer and the viewer matter.

Addis has included numerous nods to consumerism throughout this body of work, with references to money, toys, and the use of consumer objects such as crafty picture frames and home goods. In this, he aims to show the sinister and invisible power that corporations, through advertisement and marketing, have to influence and change our sexual and gender identities.

Dicks. Also Other Things. is, simply put, an exploration of how gender and sexual identities are created, maintained, and dismantled.