

Young Masters



MATT SMITH  
FOUND OBJECTS



Image © Victoria & Albert Museum

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## *Matt Smith*

### *Found Objects*

Matt Smith is interested in history as a constantly selected and refined narrative that edits out marginalised histories and presents itself as a fixed and accurate account of the past. Smith's work as an artist has often taken the form of hybrid artist/curator with site-specific interventions in museums (Queering the Museum, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery 2010), historic houses (Unravelling the National Trust 2012-2014) and public collections (Other Stories, Leeds University Art Collection, 2012). By using craft materials and techniques Smith seeks to infiltrate established perspectives and shift the viewer's point of reference. In Smith's sculptural pieces, familiar objects and elements are re-appropriated and made unfamiliar. Smith is using the craft techniques, with its connotations of the amateur, industrialisation, accessibility and gender, in order to explore its place in the art world. Consequently, Smith's pieces utilise mainstream culture at the same time as he unsettles it, taking objects from their intended role and repurposing them in new situations – creating a visual polarity.

Smith has undertaken an AHRC-funded PhD at the University of Brighton, titled *Making Things Perfectly Queer: Art's use of Craft to signify LGBT identities*, following a Dip HE in Ceramics from City Lit, a BA-Hons from the University of Westminster in Ceramics, and MA Museum Studies from University of Leicester. In 2014 Matt Smith won the inaugural Young Masters Maylis Grand Ceramics Prize. His exhibitions include: Unravelling Uppark, The National Trust, 2014, Subversive Design, Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, 2013-14, Unravelling Nymans, Nymans House, The National Trust, 2012, Other Stories (solo show), Leeds University Art Collection, 2012, Queering the Museum (solo show), Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, 2010 and Milk (solo show), ASPEX, Portsmouth, 2010. He also talks regularly about his practice (Tate Modern, 2012, Valand Academy Gothenberg, 2012). Until March 2016 Matt Smith is a resident at the V&A Ceramic Studios, supported by Maurice and Rosemary Lambert.

*Black Bunny*, 2015  
White earthenware, found silver  
35 x 18 x 13 cm





*Swan Song*, 2015  
White earthenware, found silver  
61 x 26 x 26 cm



*Feast IV*, 2014  
White earthenware, found silver  
40 x 20 x 20 cm





*Golden Girl*, 2015  
White earthenware, found ceramic, lustre  
20 x 26 x 16 cm



*Feast X*, 2014  
White earthenware, found silver  
44 x 18 x 23 cm



*Corinthian*, 2015  
White earthenware, found silver  
35 x 18 x 13 cm



*Feast IX*, 2014  
White earthenware, found silver  
40 x 20 x 20 cm



*Sweet Boy*, 2015  
White earthenware, found silver  
40 x 16 x 12 cm



*Harvest*, 2015  
White earthenware, found gilt, plaster  
28 x 25 x 17 cm



*Feast III*, 2014  
Ceramic, found silver  
36 x 30 x 19 cm

## CREDITS

### MATT SMITH: FOUND OBJECTS

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