

Chris Thompson: Old Bones

Old Bones is interested in using gendered ideas of materiality, artefact, DIY culture and violence as a means of unpicking the masculine ideals my generation grew up on, as well as being an experiment in material excess and density. It seeks to think through the relationship the male ideal has to both being a container of, and a perpetuator of, violence.

“It’s a peculiar space, sort of in-between. Not really dissimilar to the sort of squashed one-bedder that landlords turn their garages into. It’s not quite sure if it’s coming or going, beneath those sheets. Is this old-hat-tat on the way out, or has this just been put in? Either way, whose god awful idea was that pinewood?”

Violently, this tableau becomes punctured by the intrusion of an old man, crawling. Solid Snake, the stoic protagonist of the infamous Metal Gear video game series, has one last job to do. He’s been stabbed, shot, watched his mother die, killed his own father, had his face burnt in a nostalgia-fuelled Mecha battle with his dead brother, come back to haunt him.

He’s good at enduring.

It’s all he has to offer, at this point. His body failing him through artificial ageing, he crawls as he is cooked alive by microwaves as his friends suffer in war, their lives dependent on his capacity to just keep going. He must be exhausted. I’m exhausted just watching it. The space seems exhausted.

It’s warm, vaguely nostalgic yet also so misguidedly ugly, violent even, like the DIY skills of the builder. (I mean look at that wiring job!) Hazardous to health, whether that be from plaster inhalation, electrical fire or just the overload of orange. The structure of the space seems to be offering up old bones. Something seeps through the floor. That flickering light, the cabinetry is shifting into a memory of itself”.

Chris Thompson (b, 1991, Teesside) is an artist and curator working in sculpture, painting and installation.

Thompson is interested in making art that appropriates, reconfigures and antagonises a diverse cast of materials, objects and references to build speculative, anthropological inquiries into cultural memory and the contradictions embedded within contemporary existence.

Recent solo exhibitions have included ‘👁👁’ at Brockley Gardens (2019) and ‘instrument’ at Thames Side Studios (2020). He was a prize-winner at the APT Creekside Open (2019) selected by Brian Griffiths. He has received grants from the Gilbert Bayes Trust for Sculpture, the Frelands Foundation, the Eaton Fund, The Oppenheim John-Downes Memorial Trust and the Arts Council of England (Developing your Creative Practice).

He studied Painting at Camberwell College of Arts (2013) and SUNY Purchase, State University of New York (2012) and is currently completing his MFA in Fine Art at Goldsmiths College. He lives and works in London.

<https://youngartistsinconversation.co.uk/Chris-Thompson>
<https://www.floorrmagazine.com/issue-26/chris-thompson>

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Chris Thompson will be in conversation with Brian Griffiths on Saturday 2nd July at 2pm

For more information, please contact Monika Bobinska on 0786 606 3663 or via email on info@bbnrgallery.com.



Installation:
4.5 x4.5 m

Underground garage, 3x2 timber, Recticel foam insulation and spray foam.

Stained 3x1 timber, re-claimed kitchen cabinets doors, cheap Wickes laminate floor (and cheap gaffer tape), pinewood furniture board (not so cheap), cabinet Hinges.

Ceramic elephant (and Araldite two-part glue). Strip lights, LED Panels.

Plasterboard (Various grades) + accompanying dust. Polyethylene dust sheets. Twin core wiring. Polyurethane casting resin (bones), Polyurethane transparent casting resin (Cabinet doors).

Projector, PA system (PULSE), found footage; Metal Gear SOLID 4, 'Microwave corridor scene', © Konami. Mammoth rib bone, c. 30,000.BC





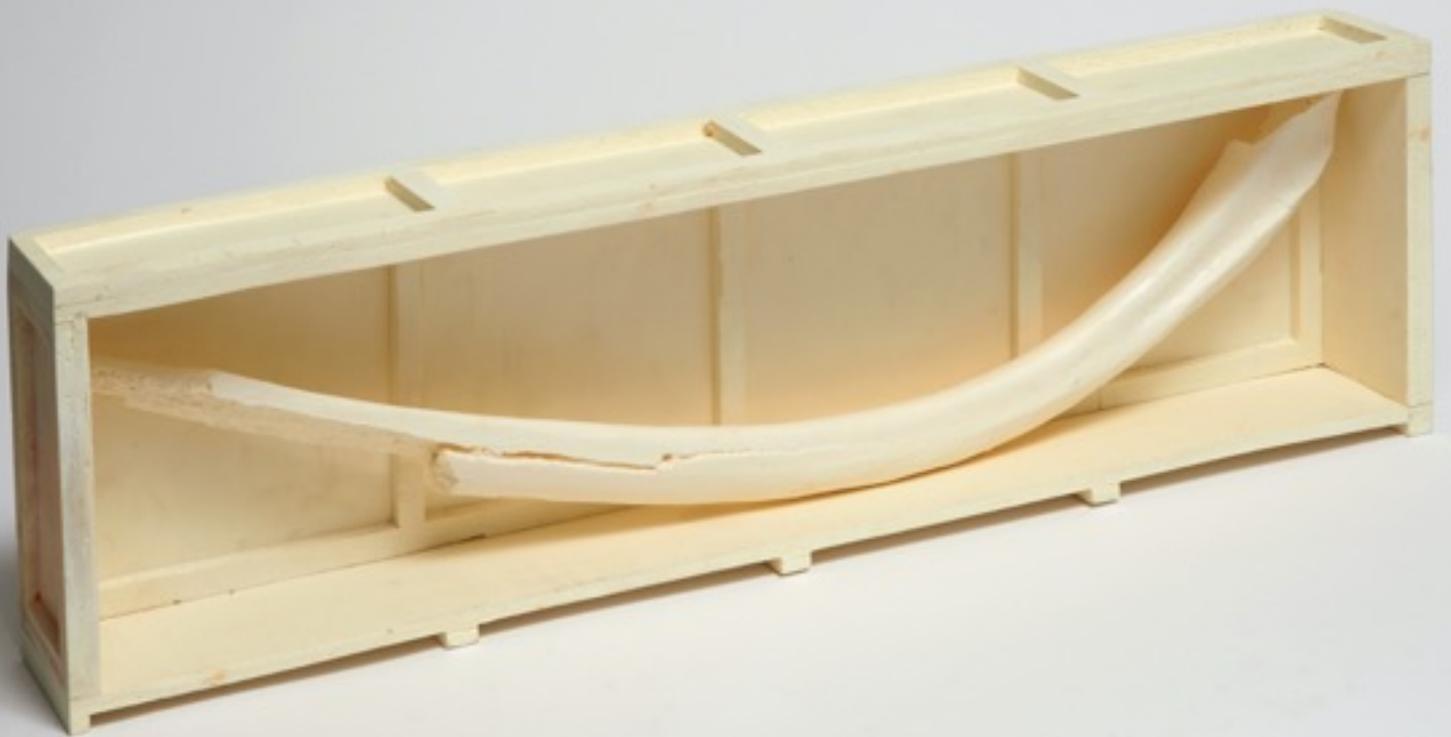








Sad Elephant - series of 5
hand built fired ceramic, acrylic paint and Epoxy glue, in custom
cupboard, 3x1 timber and pine furniture board
(Wall mountable)
57 x 53 x 30 cm 2022
£900



Cast Mammoth Rib Bone (in crate)
Polyurethane Resin
16 x 57 x 7cm 2022
edition of 10 + 1 AP
£350



Cast Mammoth Rib Bone fragments (in crate)
Polyurethane Resin
16 x 16 x 7cm 2022
edition of 30 + 1 AP
£100



All installation and works images: Andy Keate

