

FIONA MACKAY

Syntax

2 - 21 April 2013, 12 - 6pm daily
Opening: 1 April, 6 - 9pm

When we want to construct a sentence, we think about the vocabulary in our sentence and how to balance it with eloquence and coherence. The subject of our sentence is the focus, the protagonist; and verbs are used to describe its movement or state at any given time. We try to conform to the rules of language, we are speaking, yet within these confines we are free to express ourselves, it would seem, with more or less unlimited complexity. Language offers a path to unknown territory, able to communicate unique thoughts, constructing unique sentences. Sentences never before uttered are nevertheless comprehensible owing to conventions tacitly agreed to by the language users. But convention is always invention's servant, its boundaries are elastic, there to be contorted and punctured with inflexions and syntax suitable for communicating the subtlety and ambiguity of what there is to be communicated. This tension allows for eloquence.

The show binds together vocabulary coming from a pre-existing and established personal language. These words are very familiar to the artist; they are revisited, they are inflected, and their origins are made conscious with playful reference to other artists' works. The focus is therefore placed on how the vocabulary is arranged, and how this can be similar to constructing a sentence or paragraph balanced and punctuated. In language when an order can be adhered to, and then mastered, the vocabulary is shown at its most alive and potent, the aim is to become eloquent.

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