

KALEIDOSCOPE

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VISIT

“Everything falls faster than an anvil” at Pace Gallery, London



In “cartoon physics,” laws of the normal are abandoned, giving way to suspended time and that familiar moment when the protagonist looks up and realizes that a solid object, an anvil, is about to land on their head. “Everything falls faster than an anvil” draws on the plausible, yet impossible nature of cartoons, which often create scenarios that distort natural laws of physics for comedic value. Curated by CHEWDAYS, this group exhibition at London’s Pace Gallery, brings together painting and sculpture by emerging and established contemporary artists who use cartoon tropes to explore subjects that range from the banal to the socio-political. Tala Madani’s paintings challenge stereotypical male collective behavior by depicting maladroit male subjects (*Luminaries*, 2013), whilst Ella Kruglyanskaya’s buxom female characters confront the female form both at work and play (*The Scribbler*, 2013). Claes Oldenburg’s super-sized cigarette butts exaggerate everyday objects (*Fagend Study – Half Scale*, 1973-1975) and Paul Thek’s hyper-realistic images of meat, raw and bleeding, are simultaneously funny and disgusting (*Untitled # 79*, 1964). Although humor acts as a point of entry into some of these compelling works, “Everything falls faster than an anvil” reintroduces figuration, parody and humor into contemporary painterly practices largely dominated by abstraction and minimalism. A catalogue for the exhibition is forthcoming and will include an introduction by Dave Hickey. (Jareh Das)

“Everything falls faster than an anvil” at Pace Gallery, London, runs through June 18.

<http://kaleidoscope-press.com/2014/05/visiteverything-falls-faster-than-an-anvil-at-pace-gallery-london/>