



# COLIN BOOTH

## OMNIA SOMNIA

30<sup>th</sup> August-28<sup>th</sup> September

***“Art makes the familiar strange so that it can be freshly perceived. To do this it presents its material in unexpected, even outlandish ways: the shock of the new.” – Victor Shklovsky***

***“Enough is as good as a feast” – Joshua Sylvester***

16<sup>th</sup>-Century Kentish poet Joshua Sylvester has written few poems, although his epitaphic *Omnia Somnia* (Everything is a Dream), a playful and profound musing on the nature of our brief existence, guarantees his immortality. **OMNIA SOMNIA** is both the title of a major new sculpture in wood and voile, where the translucent material both reveals and veils the rectangular, minimalist form of the wooden supporting structure, and a reference to the artist’s interest in text and the ancient Greek and Western epitaphic tradition.

Colin Booth has borrowed this line for the title of his first show at the UpDown Gallery. The exhibition is a survey of work from the past five years and focuses on three main themes; his longstanding interest in early Modernism and the built environment, the interface between the historic and the new and transformative potential of everyday objects and materials. He describes this transformation as ‘*making strange*’, a reference to Russian formalist critic Victor Shklovsky’s essay, *Art as Technique*, 1925.



By collecting such perfunctory items as a chair or cupboard – often in a state of disrepair or neglect, the artist begins a transformative process where each object is altered to change the way in which we perceive its function and meaning. It offers endless opportunities to explore the fundamental theme which drives all his work: that of connecting the historic, or already existing, with the new and which has also led to him working with ancient Greek and biblical texts, made strange by their construction in neon, or positioning in the public realm. Personal narrative and a distinctive ‘*material poetic*’ are successfully combined in this impressive body of work.

Booth lives and works in St Leonards-on-Sea which, as a coastal town, is a rich hunting ground for the flotsam and jetsam of used, neglected and abandoned objects to which the artist is particularly drawn, which he then draws through a transformative process, re-contextualizing them as art.

***Catalogue with essay by Sacha Craddock: available for £10***  
***For images and more information about the gallery and shows***  
***Contact [info@updongallery.co.uk](mailto:info@updongallery.co.uk)***

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