



Kylie Minogue, *I can't get you out of my head* (2001)

LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA LA



Abingdon Studios
14 Abingdon Street,
Blackpool,
FY1 4DE

PV: 9th Feb 2023

Open by Appointment: 10th Feb - 11th Mar 2023

Floor it! wind down the window and crank up the radio to explore *LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA LA*, At Abingdon Studios in Blackpool. With the title of the show borrowed from the lyrics of *I can't get you out of my head* (2001) by Kylie Minogue. This installation looks to highlight aspects of Will's personal history, moments in their life such as the flash of car headlights on drawn curtains, waiting for their mum, Celia to get home from work. The importance of the Classic Mini, a car their Grandfather, Alan drove as a rally driver for the local garage he worked in. The nostalgia culminated in a Mini being the first car will owned, (Vroom Vroom) bought together between themselves and their twin brother Richard. It was a 1990 Rover Mini, Studio 2 model in Black, with the number plate H749 KAV. Sold in 2017 and remains SORN according to the DVLA website. The steering wheels in this show are casts of the same type of steering wheel used in this model. Reproduced in Crystical, Styled and

adorned in pink flock, chain, pleather corsetry and mirror tiles. Representing aesthetics related to car and queer culture.

Each steering wheel is titled from lyrics related to driving, the pink flocked work titled *Drive fast, I can almost taste it now*, L.A. is taken from the song *American* (2012) by Lana Del Rey. Referencing the pink fluffy steering wheel covers popular with car owners to personalise their vehicles. The act of adornment to add a sense of identity, personality and individualism to the mass produced model they drive. Multiples are a common theme within Will's work who often uses ready mades and casting to dispel the power of the one singular object and embrace the significant of mass production and its labour. Using the addition of hand crafted objects, material processes and histories to add value and stories. As a twin Will has never been a singular always one of two, a pair even when apart. This lyric was chosen

because of the reference to L.A, Los Angeles the car capitol, a city built for driving with its long boulevards and wide streets, a city of celebrity, sparkle and glamour areas at the heart of Will's practice. Dreaming is also central to this show, the striving for something more, the drive of a working class kid, the American dream.

This exhibition is punctuated with collaborations with Darren Neave, they have mirror tiled a steering wheel which is chained from the ceiling much like a charm hung from a rear view mirror. In relation to Darrens own research, a leather scent defuses through the gallery emanating from 'Little Trees' car fresheners.

Continuing the tradition of artists activating the floor at Abingdon, silver insulation foam underlay has been laid to produce a reflective grid which works sit directly on top of. The Shine disturbing the boundaries between elements and acting as a mirror, reflecting the light as it arks around the room produced by the car window mirrors which flutter on the walls.

This exhibition is supported by Garth Gratrix and Abingdon Studios and is open by appointment only. Abingdon Studios is a contemporary visual art studios and project space based in the heart of Blackpool Town Centre. And is the only dedicated contemporary visual arts studio provider in Blackpool. Please contact Abingdon studies directly via Email (info@abingdonstudios.co.uk) or Instagram (@abingdonstudios_projectspace) to book in to view the show.

Darren Neave (*He/Him*) resides on the edge of rural Lincolnshire. This liminality provides them with a different take on the relationship between their immediate habitat and the earthy surroundings beyond. They travel between the capital and the countryside; the abruption is echoed in their practice. They describe how they *often get lost, distracted, lose track, meander and dawdle dog-legged throughout the day...*

They sculpt, write, print, re-print, collect, re-purpose and re-cycle ridiculous objects. Currently they are undertaking a PhD at Leeds Beckett University. Recently they graduated from the Royal College of Art in London and the University of Lincoln. Their work is in both public and private collections.

Will Hughes (*They/Them*) lives in Stockton-on-Tees and has cofounded Unit 4 studios in Middlesbrough. Their work is conceptually driven by lived experiences as a queer, non-binary person in the UK, mixing pop culture references with material language to construct moments. They wish to seduce the viewer through often using repetitive mechanical movement, the use of glossy/shiny surfaces and the lens of glamour as a means of storytelling.

In 2021 they completed a Master of Fine Art at the BxNU institute (Baltic Centre for Contemporary art & Northumbria University).