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Francis Upritchard · *Walter*

Found plastic vase and modeling material, 2008
23cm (h) 26.5cm (diameter)
Estimate: £2,000—£3,000
Generously donated by the Artist
and Kate MacGarry, London.

Francis Upritchard (NZ, b. 1976) studied at the University of Canterbury and now lives and works in London. Upritchard creates voodoo-like sculptures and installations which reference an implausibly wide delta of ethnographic cultures, from Egyptian to Maori to European heraldry to Romanticism to unidentifiable 'otherness'. Upritchard blends all these together into improbable objects that make a mockery of our attempts to identify and categorise them, whilst installing them in the neutral status of museological display. Although these might appear to be desirable objects, they are also politicised propositions, drawing out confusions inherent in our understanding of that which is alien. Wrought with a very personal touch, they endeavour to find common threads throughout humanity; the comic, the ugly, the disturbing appear in equal measure and can be traced back to any number of hybrid sources.

Francis Upritchard will represent New Zealand at the 2009 Venice Biennale.

Following pages: detail of *Walter*

