

BERNARDUCCI.MEISEL.GALLERY

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BMG first look

EMILY COPELAND

RETRO-SPECTIVE

2 MARCH – 1 APRIL 2017

OPENING RECEPTION, THURSDAY 2 MARCH, 5 – 7 PM

Bernarducci Meisel Gallery is pleased to present *Retro-Spective*, **Emily Copeland's** debut solo exhibition. The artist lives and works in London, Ontario and is just 24 years old. Included in this exhibition are recent charcoal drawings of everyday objects full of overlapping histories. She uses digital photography and Photoshop to document items she collects from thrift stores, estate sales, or through inheritance. Photos of these objects are always her preliminary approach and inspiration. After photographing, she then draws these items on a larger scale. The artist combines realism and the act of mimesis to translate her photographic references into a meticulous black and white drawing.

Copeland focuses on vintage and 'retro' objects as her subject matter. From disco balls to old library books, these still life drawings are blown up much larger than life. The effect is surreal, monumental, and exposes details one would not normally see and may very possibly overlook. *Fork and Spoon* (2015) is a thoughtful and precise drawing of these utensils that have been passed down in her family for many generations. The reflection of the room is evident in the silver spoon. Every thread of the napkin is carefully rendered.

Artists from the Baroque era inspire her: Caravaggio, La Tour, and Velazque. It is their focus on mimesis, replicating what they see, and their contrasts with lighting that draws her to their works. Copeland chooses to let the meaning behind each piece remain anonymous and open to interpretation. With every familiar object she depicts, someone has their own personal experience to share.

Emily Copeland is a Canadian realist artist mainly working with charcoal to recreate objects on a larger scale. She received her BFA in 2015 from Western University in London, Ontario. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at The ArtLab Gallery, Concourse Gallery, and the John Labatt Visual Arts Center, among others. In 2016 she received a grant from the Elizabeth Greenshield Foundation. This is Copeland's first solo exhibition.

For further information or images please contact Leah Guadagnoli at leah@meisलगallery.com or (212) 593-3757. Viewing hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10:00am to 5:30pm.