

Tools and Objects

David Beattie

30.01.09 - 14.03.09

At the heart of David Beattie's sculptures is a deft metaphorical play on redundant or useless objects. This new body of work focuses on mechanical technology and its use in replicating natural phenomena. Underscored by a subtle sense of humour, Beattie's vocabulary uses elementary physics and lo-fi aesthetics to illustrate the human desire to categorise and control nature. 'Cloudmaker' combines a leaking plastic container of water that drips onto the heat of an old electric hob thereby recreating an everyday natural phenomenon in a makeshift way.

These are not objects stripped of any function merely to be observed and contemplated. There is an original proposition in Beattie's art, demonstrated through the playful configuration of these rudimentary experiments that tests our perceptual position and engages the senses and intellect in a direct and entirely original manner. It is precisely the way that movement, sound and physics combine as a set of tools to create an object whilst the informal arrangements lend an open and playful interpretation of these objects and their intended purpose.

Aesthetically rooted in Constructivism and early kinetic sculpture, Beattie's use of rudimentary technology combined with simple materials such as cardboard boxes recall the ordinary materials characteristic of the Italian Arte Povera movement.

Beattie derives the maximum effect from relatively primitive means and a lightness of touch that gives his work a resonant economy and poetic relationship to the world at large.

David Beattie was born in Northern Ireland in 1979. He graduated in 2006 with an MA in Visual Art Practices from IADT Dun Laoghaire. He recently showed in Studio 1.1, London with Karl Burke in *Corpus Callosum*. Later this year he will take part in a number of exhibitions including a solo show in the Butler Gallery, Kilkenny and a solo show in the Mercer Union Centre for Contemporary Art in Toronto, Canada. He will be one of the participating artists in *The Quiet Revolution* as part of the Hayward Touring Programme.