

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Conrad Bakker: Untitled Project: RECORD SHOP [45s]
Lora Reynolds Gallery
March 24 - May 5, 2012

Lora Reynolds Gallery is pleased to present *Untitled Project: RECORD SHOP [45s]*, Conrad Bakker's newest body of work.

Bakker will turn our project room into an ersatz record store by displaying more than 30 LP covers—all shaped from wood and painted with oils. The sculptures are rough and painterly, but just realistic enough to trick the casual observer into believing she is looking at actual LPs.

This project is part of a larger ongoing series in which Bakker creates nonfunctional replicas of banal salable objects and re-inserts them into commercial environments. He had a garage sale on his front lawn and sold painted wooden sculptures posing as tchotchkes. He filled subscriptions to his own mail-order Book-of-the-Month Club, although none of the books were readable. In convenience stores, Bakker sometimes hides his sculptures among their functional counterparts to be found by unwitting customers.

Bakker's lighthearted exercises in re-contextualization bring up questions about the role of the artist in the marketplace. An artist's practice often blurs the line between traditional ideas of work and leisure. Cultivating inspiration, developing ideas, and making objects with little utilitarian value may, from a parochial perspective, look like mere indolence.

By reproducing LP covers, Bakker points to the difference in popularly perceived value between the musical and visual arts. Records, CDs, and MP3s have always enjoyed mass-market appeal. The products of visual artists, however, are sometimes vilified as inconsequential or playthings of the über-rich. *RECORD SHOP* presents an alternative of pluralistic value, relevance, and appreciation.

Conrad Bakker lives and works in Urbana, Illinois. His work has been shown internationally at venues including the New Museum of Contemporary Art (New York); the Tate Modern (London); the Färgfabriken Center for Contemporary Art and Architecture (Stockholm); and his front lawn. Bakker's work has been reviewed in publications including the New York Times and Sculpture. Bakker was recently included in the exhibition *New Image Sculpture* at the McNay Art Museum (San Antonio).

Untitled Project: RECORD SHOP [45s] will be on view through May 5, 2012.

Images may be viewed on our website at www.lorareynolds.com.

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