

METRO PICTURES

Claire Fontaine
Stop Seeking Approval
February 26 - April 4, 2015



Untitled (White Whale), 2015. Acrylic on canvas. 118 1/8 x 82 5/8 x 1 5/8 in.

Claire Fontaine exhibits monochrome paintings and readymade sculptures in “Stop Seeking Approval,” her second exhibition at Metro Pictures. A self-declared “readymade-artist” with a ready-made name—Claire Fontaine being a popular brand of French notebooks—the works in the exhibition are a continuation of her *détournement* of existing artistic forms and strategies. Fontaine incorporates readily available security products to address the symbiosis of theft and protection, a recurring theme in her work. In the series Fresh Monochromes Fontaine uses what is referred to in theft prevention jargon an “anti-climb” paint. The paint, which never dries, is coated on walls and fences with the intention of discouraging endeavoring intruders by staining their clothes to make their criminal intent known, quite literally leaving them to be “caught red handed.” In this way Fontaine considers her paintings to be both defensive and aggressive as any viewer deliberately touching or even negligently brushing up against them is marked as a culprit. While she quotes the tradition of monochrome painting, Fontaine asserts that Fresh Monochromes are conceptual artworks, the three colors used—gray, red and black—dictated solely by the commercial availability of the paint and but most importantly because her primary interest lies not in contributing to the long-established form of monochrome painting, but rather in the latent hostility of her chosen medium.

The circulation of water and liquid is another dominant motif throughout the exhibition. Fontaine conceals a knife inside a zinc pipe ordinarily

used as a rain gutter and covers its upper half in anti-climb paint in *Mr Skinny Legs*. For Fontaine the sculpture recalls the lullaby of the Itsy Bitsy Spider climbing its way up the waterspout, but reimagines the innocent children’s song as a violent metaphor as the spider, or intruder, climbs the pipe only to be washed away again and again. The painting *White Whale* explicitly evokes Moby Dick, water shooting into the air like a fountain from the whale’s blowhole, while *Untitled (Toilet Snorkel)* depicts a puzzling illustration for a device that would allow a person trapped in a fire to access clean air by breathing through a hose inside a toilet. This acerbic humor pervades Fontaine’s work and can be seen in *Untitled (Rotary Spike; Noir profond/Blanc/Rouge Paris/Bleu de Kossou)*. The sculpture is made with rotating razor spikes, a particularly brutal variant of barbed wire. Fontaine painted each of the spikes in what she refers to as a sequence of four “festive” colors, the strands of colorful razor spikes reminiscent of party streamers. In two videos based on the dogma of a self-help guru, *You Can Cut Anyone* and *Why Your Psychology Sucks*, Fontaine offers questionable solutions for staying happy, healthy and productive to her audience.

Claire Fontaine was founded in Paris in 2004. A “collective artist,” Fontaine rejects notions of authorship, activism and opposition. She addresses the problem of political impotence through what she calls “human strike,” which can encompass both micro and macro social (in) action. A prolific writer, Fontaine’s texts on contemporary political culture and discourse are essential for understanding the breadth of her project. Copies of her writings are available at the front desk of the gallery.

Fontaine has had one-person exhibitions at the Jewish Museum, New York; CCA Wattis Institute, San Francisco; Muesion Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Bolzano, Italy; MUSAC Contemporary Art Museum, Castilla y León, Spain; Museo Tamayo, Mexico City; Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami; Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; and Kunsthalle Zurich. Her work has been in group shows at the Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio; Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt; Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit; Centre Pompidou, Paris; KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; 21er Haus, Vienna; The Power Plant, Toronto; Maison Rouge, Paris; Colección Jumex, Mexico City; CAC Contemporary Art Center, Vilnius, Lithuania; and CAPC Musée d’Art Contemporain, Bordeaux. She has participated in the Whitney Biennial, Istanbul Biennial, Lyon Biennial, Biennale of Sydney, Athens Biennial, Moscow Biennial, and Shanghai Biennial.

519 W 24TH ST NEW YORK, NY 10011 T 212 206 7100 F 212 337 0070
WWW.METROPICTURES.COM GALLERY@METROPICTURES.COM

METRO PICTURES

CLAIRE FONTAINE
"STOP SEEKING APPROVAL"
FEBRUARY 26 - APRIL 4, 2015



Claire Fontaine

Untitled (Why your psychology sucks), 2015
Digital HD video, colour and sound
duration: 16:9
Edition 1 of 6, 2 AP
(MP# CF-V-3)



Claire Fontaine

The Crack-up with other pieces an stories brickbrack, 2015
Brick and brick fragments and
archival digital print
7.17 x 4.45 x 2.36 inches
18.2 x 11.3 x 6 cm
7 1/8 x 4 1/2 x 2 3/8
Edition 1 of 5, 2 AP
(MP# CF--288)



Claire Fontaine

Untitled (White whale), 2015
acrylic on canvas
118 1/8 x 82 5/8 x 1 5/8 inches
300 x 210 x 4 cm
unique
(MP# CF--272)



Claire Fontaine

Untitled (Mr. Skinny Legs), 2015
Zinc downpipe, wall brackets, clean
out, spout, fillet knife, all weather
glue, magnet and anti-climb paint
dims variable
Edition 1 of 5, 2 AP
(MP# CF--275)



Claire Fontaine

Untitled (Toilet snorkel/US Patent),
2015

Oil paint on canvas and book shelf
59 x 81 1/6 x 1 1/8 inches (painting)

150 x 206 x 3 cm

39 3/8 x 46 1/2 x 13 3/8 inches
(base)

100 x 118 x 34 cm

unique

(MP# CF--273)



Claire Fontaine

Untitled (advertising, advertising),
2015

Digital vinyl print on frameless
industrial lightbox

62 1/2 x 48 3/8 x 3 7/8 inches (each
panel)

160 x 123 x 10 cm

62 1/2 x 96 5/8 x 3 3/4 inches

(overall)

160 x 246 x 12 cm

Edition 1 of 3, 2 AP

(MP# CF--269)



Claire Fontaine

Untitled (Fresh
monochrome/concrete/black), 2015

Anti-climb paint on canvas

82 3/4 x 52 7/8 x 1 1/4 inches (each
panel)

210.2 x 134.6 x 3 cm

82 3/4 x 105 7/8 x 1 1/4 inches

(overall diptych)

210.2 x 269.2 x 3 cm

unique

(MP# CF--277)



Claire Fontaine

Untitled (Fresh monochrome/grey),
2015

Anti-climb paint on canvas

82 3/4 x 52 7/8 x 1 1/4 inches

210 x 134.5 x 3 cm

unique

(MP# CF--279)



Claire Fontaine

Untitled (fresh monochrome/black),
2015

Anti-climb paint on canvas
82 3/4 x 52 7/8 x 1 1/4 inches
210 x 134.5 x 3 cm
unique
(MP# CF--280)



Claire Fontaine

Untitled (Fresh monochrome/red),
2015

Anti-climb paint on canvas
82 3/4 x 52 7/8 x 1 1/4 inches
210 x 134.5 x 3 cm
unique
(MP# CF--281)



Claire Fontaine

Untitled (Fresh
monochrome/black), 2015

Anti-climb paint on canvas
82 3/4 x 52 7/8 x 1 1/4 inches
210 x 134.5 x 3 cm
unique
(MP# CF--282)



Claire Fontaine

Untitled (Fresh
monochrome/black/grey/red), 2015

Anti-climb paint on canvas
82 3/4 x 52 7/8 x 1 1/4 inches (each
panel)
210 x 134.5 x 3 cm
82 3/4 x 158 3/8 x 1 1/4 inches
(overall triptych)
210 x 403.5 x 3 cm
unique
(MP# CF--278)



Claire Fontaine

Untitled (Fresh
monochrome/red/black), 2015

Anti-climb paint on canvas
82 3/4 x 52 7/8 x 1 1/4 inches (each
panel)
210 x 134.5 x 3 cm
82 3/4 x 105 7/8 x 1/14 inches (overall
diptych)
210 x 269 x 3 cm

unique
(MP# CF--276)



Claire Fontaine

Untitled (Parking bay), 2015

Readymade shopping cart station,
galvanized metal, chains and jeton
keys

47 1/4 x 59 x 5 7/8 inches

120 x 150 x 15 cm

Edition 1 of 5, 2 AP

(MP# CF--283)



Claire Fontaine

Untitled (Thief), 2015

digital print on canvas

157 1/2 x 15 3/4 x 3/4 inches

400 x 40 x 2 cm

Edition 1 of 5, 2AP

(MP# CF--274)



Claire Fontaine

Untitled (Money Trap), 2015

Incased wall safe deposit box, keys
and plaster wall

15 3/4 x 11 3/4 x 9 7/8 inches

40 x 30 x 25 cm

Edition 1 of 5, 2 AP

(MP# CF--285)



Claire Fontaine

Untitled (You can cut anyone), 2015

Digital HD video, colour and sound
duration: 16:9

Edition 1 of 6, 2 AP

(MP# CF-V-4)



Claire Fontaine

Untitled (Skewer), 2015

Modified chess board

19 5/8 x 19 5/8 x 3 7/8 inches

50 x 50 x 10 cm

unique

(MP# CF--287)



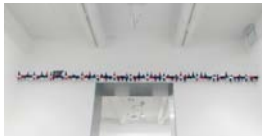
Claire Fontaine

Untitled (Begging Painting), 2015
Painted canvas, wood, magnets
and loose Euro change
81 x 59 x 1 1/4 inches
206 x 150 x 3 cm
unique
(MP# CF--270)



Claire Fontaine

Untitled (Begging Painting), 2015
Painted canvas, wood, magnets
and loose Euro change
81 x 59 x 1 1/4 inches
206 x 150 x 3 cm
unique
(MP# CF--271)



Claire Fontaine

*Untitled (Rotary Spike: Noir
profond/Blanc/Rouge Paris/Bleu de
kossou)*, 2015
Galvanized and painted rotary
spike, tubing and fixtures
9 7/8 x 236 1/4 x 9 7/8 inches
(overall)
25 x 600 x 25 cm
Internal pipe:
1 5/8 inches / 4.1 cm (exterior
diameter)
1 1/2 inches / 3.8 cm (interior
diameter)
unique
(MP# CF--284)