

## Press Release



### ‘See how you feel...’

Dodi Reifenberg

29 January – 7 March 2009

Private view: Thursday 29 January, 6–9pm

How would you feel if you were treated like an outcast, the detritus that society throws away? Berlin-based artist Dodi Reifenberg launches his exhibition to champion the humble plastic bag, bringing this ‘black sheep’ not only back into the fold, but giving it a starring role in contemporary art. Cutting, tearing and tying bags together, he shows just how flexible his medium is, creating work that ranges from large scale installations to ‘mosaics’ and collages.

For his debut UK exhibition at Maddox Arts, Reifenberg creates a fantastical array of works that celebrate the unexpected beauty of plastic. Although there is an underlying interest in drawing attention to waste and recycling issues, the artist is above all interested in plastic’s aesthetic possibilities. Works like the ‘Tosser’ series, a simple gold or silver bag crumpled into an apparently solid form, show how something simply ‘tossed’ away can be beautiful if turned into an object for display.



Chrissy



Setting



Tosser 1



DustYpink

Other works reveal a delightful wit and joie de vivre: *Chrissy* is an anthropomorphic shopping trolley, *DustYpink*, a cheeky, pink feather duster and *Setting*, four wooden chairs that have lost their seats, but gained festive plastic frills to their backs.

A collage series involves the meticulous reproduction of well-known photographs of President Obama, HG Wells and Walter Benjamin, made from shredded, discarded bags, intricately tessellated to build up the tonal range of the original images.

Thus in Reifenberg’s hands, the plastic bag takes on a whole new life; the mundane becomes inspiring and we are made to reconsider just how throwaway ‘garbage’ really is.

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Images are available to download at [www.theresasimon.com/press](http://www.theresasimon.com/press). Simply enter name and email address for immediate access.

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