

PIPPY HOULDSWORTH GALLERY

PALOMA PROUDFOOT

Buns without a face

THE BOX

3 December 2020 - 6 February 2021



Buns without a face, 2018, glazed ceramic,
32 x 40 x 23 cm, 12 5/8 x 15 3/4 x 9 1/8 in

Pippy Houldsworth Gallery is delighted to present British artist Paloma Proudfoot in the gallery's microproject space, The Box. *Buns without a face*, running from 3 December to 6 February, is the artist's first presentation at the gallery.

Buns without a face presents a humorous, perplexing form – a sculptural bust with its head and shoulders covered in long hair. The work draws on a quote from Sophie Collins' *Small White Monkeys*: 'I am angry because I have been ashamed for that which I ought not to have been made to feel ashamed, and, as I now know, anger is a battery'. Exploring the complexities of shame, Proudfoot obscures the face completely, expressing a wish to hide from the judgement of others and oneself. This instinct, rooted in part by self-preservation, points to the contradictory nature of this emotion. Though shielding herself, the figure projects confidence, holding her head upright on her broad shoulders, her neat buns shining. By shaping a hairstyle typically worn by women, Proudfoot examines how the experience of shame may be gendered, particularly in relation to personal appearance and constructions of femininity.

Proudfoot's practice encompasses sculpture, textile, performance and installation, often combining techniques across each discipline. Bringing together a wide range of references – from personal experience to literature and historical apparel – her work articulates indeterminate feelings, often drawing on a female perspective.

About the artist

Paloma Proudfoot (b. 1992, London) has a BA Fine Art from Edinburgh College of Art (2014) and an MA from the Royal College of Art (2017). Recent solo exhibitions include *Sans Titre*, Paris (2019); *Soy Capitan*, Berlin (2019) and *Marso Gallerie*, Mexico City (2018). Her work has also been shown in exhibitions at Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; Beaconsfield Gallery, London; The Royal Standard, Liverpool and Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, amongst others. Proudfoot has been featured in publications including *Artforum*, *Elephant Magazine*, *its nice that*, *Dazed* and *Garage Magazine*. Upcoming exhibitions include a solo exhibition at Editorial Projects, Vilnius (2021) and two-person exhibitions at TJ Boulting, London (2021) and Hannah Barry, London (2021).

About The Box

The Box is a small white cube suspended in a black passage, its hidden LED lighting causing it to hover at the back of the space. Initiated in 2011, The Box programme to date has commissioned and presented works by Susan Hiller, Paul McCarthy, Shana Moulton, Woody De Othello, Martha Rosler, Arlene Shechet, Yinka Shonibare CBE, Ai Weiwei, Jane and Louise Wilson, and Alina Szapocznikow to name a few.