

Eric White: *Relics*
Through Jan. 13, 2019
GRIMM New York
202 Bowery (between Prince and Spring)

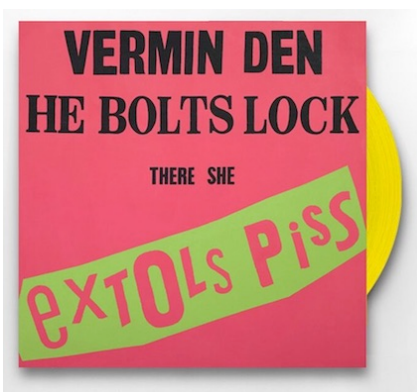
PRESS CONTACT
Molly Krause
molly@molly.nyc
Molly Krause Communications
Images: molly.nyc/relics

Eric White to present *Relics* at GRIMM New York

Eric White – artist behind album artwork for Frank Zappa and Tyler, the Creator – will show a mixed media piece and a series of paintings that address aspects of the historical culture of album artwork



Installation rendering
Monk (2016) in foreground; *Heavy Redaction* at right



Never Mind the Bollocks (2016)
Oil on panel, 60x60"



Detail of *Heavy Redaction* (2016)
400 8-track cassettes with vinyl, dimensions variable

New York, NY — Following inclusion in GRIMM's 2015-2018 Frieze New York presentations and a 2016 solo show at GRIMM Amsterdam, Eric White is pleased to present *Relics*. The exhibition comprises two types of work: the first is a mixed media piece of 400 8-track cassette tapes, and the second is a group of to-scale trompe l'oeils of reimagined vintage LPs (and two quintuple-scale works of the same series).

For the 8-track installation, *Heavy Redaction*, White specifically sourced albums of which the artwork featured an attractive woman (or women) with no actual relation to the music itself. The start of the 8-track era (1964-onward) was a time when sexualized women were used as an unironic marketing instrument for thousands of 'no-name' smooth jazz and easy listening albums. White believes that the widespread practice of using this unrelated visual accompaniment in order to cater to aspirational male customers is a tangible cultural example of the time's "blatant institutionalized misogyny." For *Heavy Redaction*, White digitally reworked the album artwork to conceal the identifying text of the musical artists, rendering the musicians as irrelevant to the artwork as the women were to the music itself. White then adhered these new labels to the 8-tracks, which are assembled into a stacked pyramid. The focus is removed from the album details and now placed fully on the women, whose images collectively create a visual survey of the era's defining aesthetic.

The other series—the reimagined LPs—are, above all, a celebration of the extent to which album artwork was once revered. An album cover's imagery used to be inextricable from the music itself (and sometimes even iconic in its own right, such as Andy Warhol's "banana cover" for the Velvet Underground's *The Velvet Underground & Nico*). Now, on the other hand, we might not even know what the album artwork *is* for some of our favorite songs. In his LP series, White takes iconic covers and sets them slightly askew, to a mildly disorienting yet still quite familiar final product. Their iconography and fonts are still recognizable, but in the form of anagrams like "Extols Piss" instead of "Sex Pistols." White's process in developing each of the works touches on psychological concepts like dream states and memory distortion, but the presentation is, at its core, a demonstration of the lasting power of this distinct breed of cultural iconography.

Relics will be on view at GRIMM New York (202 Bowery) through Sunday, January 13. Featured on the main floor of the gallery will be *Triage*, a seven-work presentation from White, set in 1973, that explores the psychology of those who fixate on control as a way to manage chaos.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Eric White (b. 1968, Michigan; BFA 1990, RISD) is an artist whose practice principally examines psychological phenomena through twentieth century history and pop culture. He typically explores these ideas through distinct bodies of work that focus around a fictional central narrative. Through works that are hyper-realistically rendered yet narratively fantastical, White tells psychological stories that use cultural symbolism to resonate within and beyond their own narrative frameworks.

Since 2002, White has exhibited in group shows at, chronologically: Gracie Mansion Gallery, Pablo's Birthday, PPOW, Derek Eller Gallery, Galerie Emanuel Perrotin, Deitch Projects, The Hole, and GRIMM. He has shown in presentations at Frieze New York, Art Brussels, and the Armory Show. White was the 2010 recipient of a New York Foundation of the Arts fellowship grant. From 2006 until 2014, White taught Narrative Painting at the School of Visual Arts. In 2015, Rizzoli published a 208-page Eric White monograph. He has done album artwork for Frank Zappa and Tyler, the Creator.

White is based between Brooklyn and Los Angeles.

For more information, visit www.ewhite.com and www.grimmgallery.com.