

DROPSHOP

CURATED BY PHILLIPS

PRESS RELEASE

Phillips Dropshop Announces First Bronze Sculpture by Emily Mae Smith, *Gazer*

To be Exclusively Released on 10 October at 10am



Close up of *Gazer*

NEW YORK – 3 OCTOBER 2023 – Phillips’ October Drop features Emily Mae Smith’s first bronze sculpture, *Gazer*. The Drop will take place on 10 October on dropshop.phillips.com at 10am. Known for her virtuosic paintings featuring surreal images, art historical references, and wry commentary, *Gazer* takes inspiration from many of the same subjects as her paintings, ranging in influence from the Arts and Crafts movement to surrealism. *Gazer* is a sculpture representing a traditionally useful, yet humble tool – a broom, relieved of their labor duties, and elevated to a moment of leisure and self-reflection having emerged in this new setting.

Emily Mae Smith said, “I have always painted about the potential of objects. This is why I often say my work is most related to still life. It was only a matter of time until one of my subjects emerged in three dimensions. *Gazer* revisits a beloved theme from my oeuvre – a broom with a mirror. This subject first appears in my work in a 2015 painting titled *The Mirror* and appears again in my 2020 painting *Cassiopeia*, the model for this sculpture. Mirrors, portals, and windows recur in my work to speak about subjects such as the gaze, voyeurism, objectification, power, and agency. This broom with the mirror symbolizes a powerful transformation – a common tool gazes at itself in an act of self-love and recognition of possibility beyond the intentions of their maker.

With this sculpture I wanted to work in a material as enduring and historic as oil painting, thus *Gazer* is bronze; a storied, weighty medium able to hold a myriad of patinas. My utmost respect and gratitude go to the master craftspeople at the foundry who have spent many hours with me and are painstakingly executing each of these

bronze works through the magic of metallurgy. *Gazer* invites the viewer on a journey through the art historical cannon in the timeless interplay of form and symbolism as seen from the Arts & Crafts movement to the Surrealists to new millennium imagists like myself.”

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Emily Mae Smith’s slyly humorous and riveting compositions nod to art historical movements such as Symbolism and Art Nouveau, with a distinctly 21st century spin. Her genre-defying work operates through a lexicon of signs and symbols to address timely subjects including gender, class, and violence. Smith tackles art history’s patriarchal myths and creates from a feminist perspective. Emily Mae Smith is represented by Petzel, Perrotin, Rodolphe Janssen, and Contemporary Fine Arts.

Smith has had solo shows at Pond Society (2023); Petzel, NY (2022); Perrotin, Paris (2021); Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels (2021); Savannah College of Art and Design (2020); Marion Art Gallery, Rockefeller Arts Center (2020), among others. Select, recent group exhibitions include: The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (2022); The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) (2022); 58th October Salon, Belgrade Biennale (2021); Columbus Museum of Art (2021). Smith’s work is included in collections such as The Brooklyn Museum; Columbus Museum of Art; The Consortium Museum; Dallas Museum of Art; The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; MOCA Los Angeles; Museum Brandhorst; Pond Society; Powerlong Art Museum; Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art; and Whitney Museum of American Art, among others.



ABOUT DROPSHOP

Dropshop, Curated by Phillips, offers exclusive Drops by creators, for collectors. Dropshop’s limited-edition releases of primary market art and objects are exclusive to the company’s digital platform and conceived in partnership with the artists, collaborators, and brands shaping contemporary culture. Items are available through a timed “buy now” e-commerce model at www.phillips.com/dropshop. By redefining the dynamics of the traditional art market framework, Dropshop’s goal is to connect artists, galleries, curators, institutions, and non-profit organizations with a global collecting community. Further, creators will receive a resale royalty commission for any work purchased from Dropshop that is subsequently re-offered at Phillips — an industry first.

ABOUT PHILLIPS

Phillips is a leading global platform for buying and selling 20th and 21st century art and design. With dedicated expertise in the areas of 20th Century and Contemporary Art, Design, Photographs, Editions, Watches, and Jewelry, Phillips offers professional services and advice on all aspects of collecting. Auctions and exhibitions are held at salerooms in New York, London, Geneva, and Hong Kong, while clients are further served through representative offices based throughout Europe, the United States and Asia. Phillips also offers an online auction platform accessible anywhere in the world. In addition to providing selling and buying opportunities through auction, Phillips brokers private sales and offers assistance with appraisals, valuations, and other financial services.

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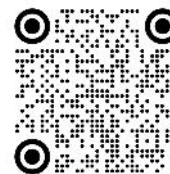
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