




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
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# Signature style


Gavin Turk's show plays with authorship and the role of the artist



APRIL 26 2013  
NICOLE SWENGLEY

For an artist who launched his career with a provocative portrayal of his own posthumous recognition (the blue memorial plaque that failed to gain him a Royal College of Art degree), the appeal of Gavin Turk's work has proved remarkably resilient during his lifetime. Now a major solo exhibition timed to coincide with the publication of the artist's first monograph (Prestel, £45) will highlight work from more than two decades alongside new pieces and several artworks never previously shown in the UK.

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Turk's reputation for challenging notions of identity and authorship is well illustrated in this thought-provoking show. So are his playful reinterpretations of cultural icons, as in *Triple Pop Black and White* (2011, second picture, £54,000), in which the artist portrays himself as punk rocker Sid Vicious, in the pose of Elvis Presley as depicted by Andy Warhol.

In his new pieces, Turk draws inspiration from the techniques of two 20th-century Italian artists, Lucio Fontana and Michelangelo Pistoletto. Ovoid *Holy Egg* canvases (2013, first picture, £42,000) punctured with Turk's initials reference Fontana's *buchi* (holes) and *tagli* (slashes) series, while Pistoletto's Mirror Paintings have prompted *Pistoletto's Rubbish* (2013, £48,000), in which the Italian artist's signature polished surfaces are fused with a silkscreen image of Turk's bin-bag sculptures. By painting cast-bronze sculptures to look like urban waste – as in *Refuse* (2012, £48,000) – Turk explores the status and value of artworks. Meanwhile, *Habitat (Zingy Purple)* (2004, £108,000) and *Burnt Out* (2008, £60,000) make visual commentaries on sleeping rough.

Turk initially hit the international art scene in the early 1990s as part of the Young British Artists movement, and since then his work has featured in many exhibitions and museums. This new show offers collectors the chance to invest in career-spanning pieces from this talented but now not-so-young Turk.

*Gavin Turk: The Years* runs from Friday April 26 to Friday June 14 2013 at Ben Brown Fine Arts, 12 Brook's Mews, London W1 (020-7734 8888; [www.benbrownfinearts.com](http://www.benbrownfinearts.com)).

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