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*S&M: Neil Gall in the Studio with John Jones*

By John Jones

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Neil Gall is possibly best known for his kinky sounding 'S&M sculpture paintings' which echo the disquiet of German artist Hans Belmer's life-size pre-pubescent dolls which conjure the debris of everyday life into stunted, contorted & amputated characters. Gall's works are themselves tortured pictures of a tortuous process - fetish-objects in the cult of the artist's own practice. Gall's works are like a cast of characters in a perverse theatrical performance meticulously directed by the artist. Magnifying the scale so that every tiny detail of an object can be captured, they are intricate and methodical investigations of aspects of reality that our own perception can often miss. The things subjected to this treatment are equally worthy of attention, whether they are as ordinary and familiar as toy farm animals, globs of placticine, chocolate bars and burst balloons, or as creepy and hard to place as the bound black figures of works like *Tyburn* and *Performance*. Neil invites us into his private studio for a special tour and an opportunity to chat to him about his work, inspiration and love of latex. OUTSTANDING.