

S E D V I C E



BY BRENT RANDALL

LONDON/FRANKFURT | Ophelia Finke, born 1991 in Frankfurt, is a contemporary artist who is currently working and residing in London. In 2010, while in Paris, she met German artist Neo Rauch, who became interested in her paintings. Finke applied to Central Martins College of Art and Design in London and, despite the term having already begun, she was accepted into the program. She set aside her plans to study medicine and moved to London to study art.

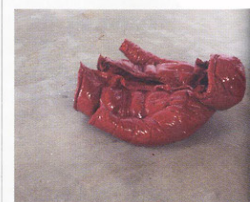
Finke says that her room was “bursting with built things” while growing up. Despite having been surrounded by an environment that fostered creativity from a young age, she explained that she initially wanted to study medicine because “it seemed [like] a good preliminary study for examining the human body.” She took her scientific cues from Caravaggio and Michelangelo, from the Renaissance period, a time when both the arts and the sciences flourished. Finke’s artistic inspirations are based in “discovery, action, and exploration.” Literal adventures, no matter how glorious or ordinary, are not the only things that fascinate her. She

is quite intrigued by a specific article of clothing – the puffer jacket. Puffer jackets have a sheen to them, and Finke explains that these jackets, when worn, give the wearer the appearance of a “Kafkaesque beetle with [a] highly polished carapace. There is no *National Geographic* volume without them; they are the icons of each ice-adventure. They are just great.”

Finke says she likes to experiment with the traditional forms of art-making mixed with “newer production techniques and materials.” She shares that she is currently working on a film and reveals, “In one scene of the movie a horse is riding through the main lobby of Saint Martins.” It becomes apparent that Finke has a penchant for utilising humour and amusing messages, as these two elements are often manifested within her art. Concerning the less obvious or hidden elements within her work, Finke gives us her honest opinion; “I am sure, that there are hidden elements in my work; I am just looking for them too! I’ll keep you posted.”

Her future goal as an artist is to be able to realise her projects more easily. Other aspirations include forming a K-Pop band and creating a one-hit wonder titled Ophelia. When asked to share what her plans are in the next five years, she says, “I was thinking about studying medicine?” •

OPHELIA FINKE IN HER CENTRAL SAINT MARTINS STUDIO WITH HER TEAM, PHOTOGRAPHED BY LAURENCE ELLIS, BELOW: 'JACKE' & 'SCHNELL'



OPHELIA