

Robert Gober



'Leg', 1990, Cotton, wood, leather shoe, human hair, 27.3 x 52.1 x 14.3cm, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C.

"Gober was born in Wallingford, Connecticut and studied at Middlebury College,^[1] Vermont and the Tyler School of Art in Rome. He lives and works in New York City and is represented by the Matthew Marks Gallery. He is best known for his sculptures, but also has made photographs, prints, and drawings and has curated exhibitions. Most recently, in the Whitney Biennial 2012, he curated a room of Forrest Bess's paintings and archival materials dealing with the artist's exploration into hermaphroditism. He also curated "Heat Waves in a Swamp: The Paintings of Charles Burchfield" at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles in 2009 (which traveled to the Burchfield Penney Art Center, Buffalo and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York in 2010). He has had exhibitions of his work in Europe, North America and Japan. One of his most well known series of works of sculptures of sinks. His work is often related to domestic and familiar objects such as sinks, doors, and legs, and has themes of nature, sexuality, religion, and politics. The sculptures are meticulously handcrafted, even when they appear to just be a re-creation of a common sink". - 1
Wikipedia

This sculpture Leg is a very realistic wax leg made from real human hair of Robert Gober himself. He has used his own hair because this leg is a self portrait of his own leg so it is portraying him in a sense. He has used a real trouser leg, sock and shoe. It looks like a real leg but there is no blood so that stops it from being too shocking. 2
3

The owner of this leg has fallen into the house and the man is now part of the house. The leg is also a gay symbol. When men wear their pants like this is often a sign of being a homosexual. Gober is a proud supporter of the homosexual society. This work is reflecting how homophobia and discrimination to homosexual society is expressed. 4

The work of Gober's is well made it has a realistic creepy feel to it. The work 'Leg' may seem like a normal leg at first but it really symbolises how homosexual men in particular himself are discriminated on a daily basis. How they are picked on for something as little as rolling their pants up in a homosexual stereotypical way. 5

I think that this work will really impact an audience not only because of its strangeness and because it makes you think about what it could mean. 6