

Art

20 questions with... Peter Gronquist

Presenting everything you need to know about the man behind the deer with the Gucci antlers and the Hello Kitty grenades

By Poppy Malby

13 January 2019



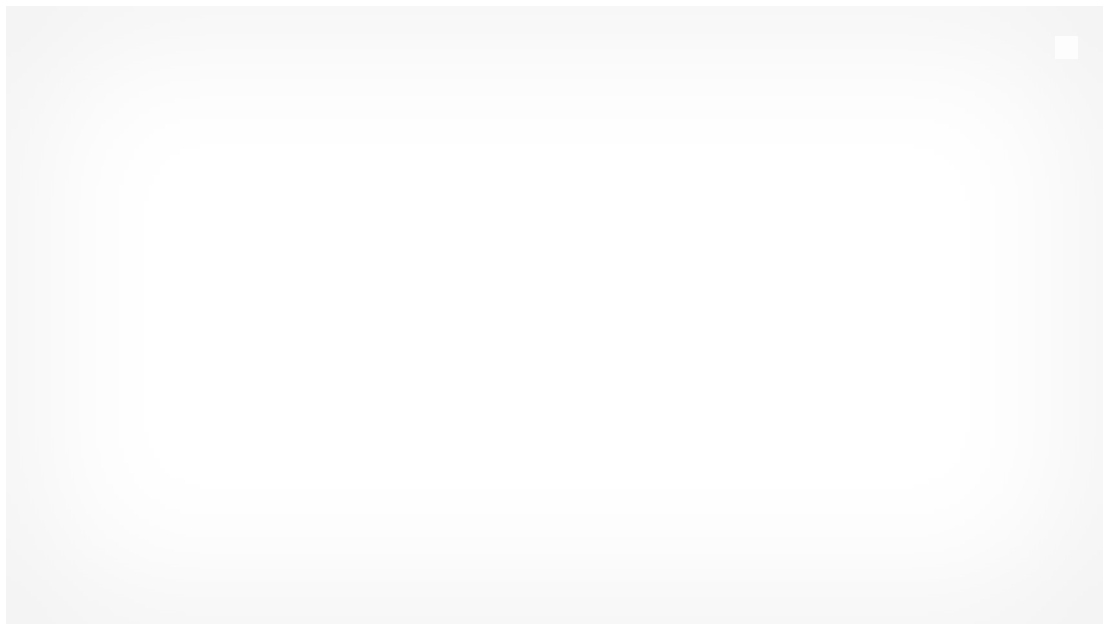
Peter Gronquist and Unit London

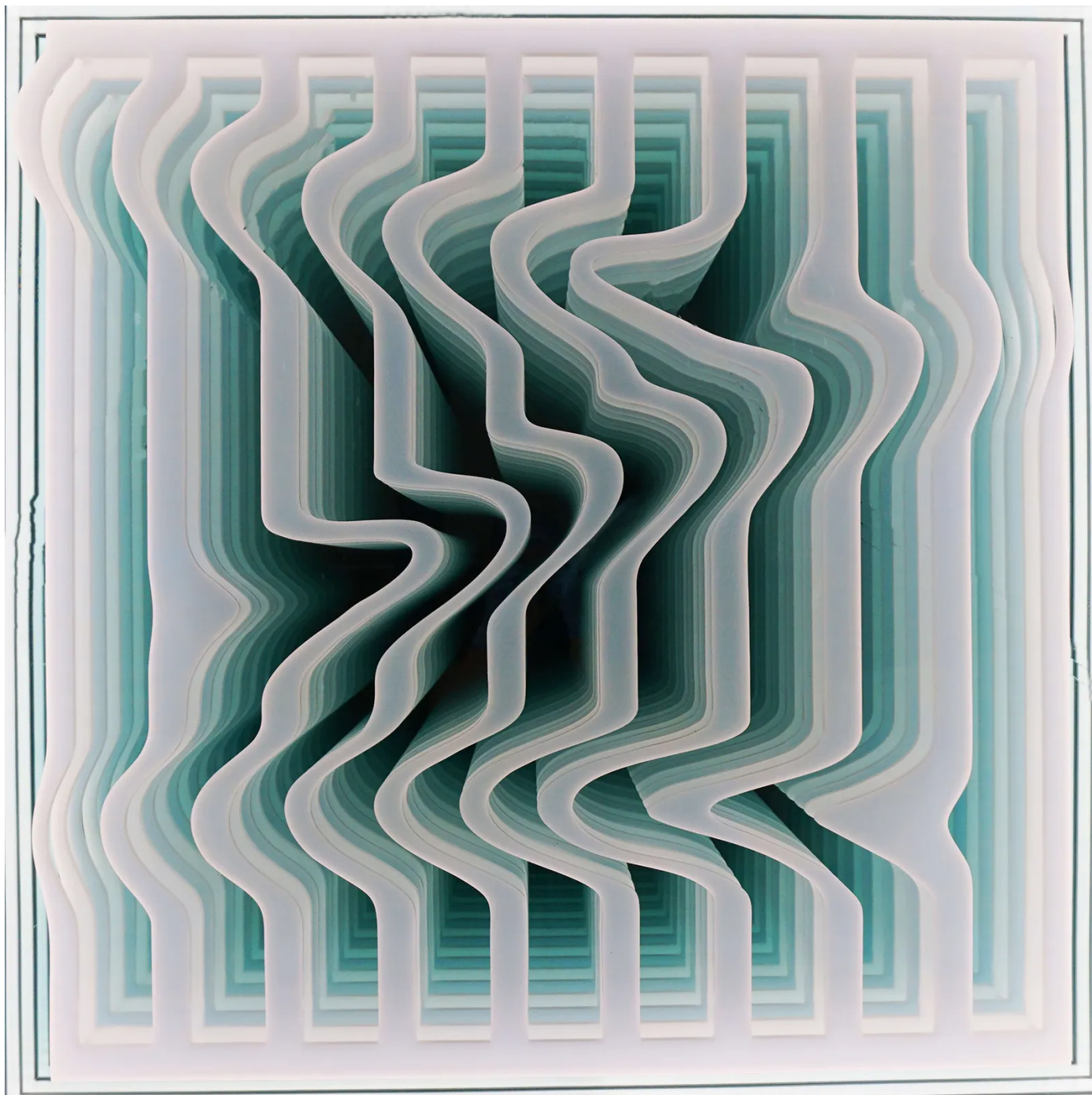
Peter Gronquist is a Portland-based sculptor who bases his work on the theme of what he calls "hyper-American culture". Gronquist's art combines neo-baroque-styled sculpture with subjects reflective of branding and our society's grim obsession with consumerism. From creating taxidermy of a deer with the Gucci antlers to moulding Hello Kitty grenades, it becomes evident how Gronquist can make something so innocent appear so immoral.



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Gronquist works in a number of media to encourage the viewer themselves to deconstruct what they are really seeing. He states that "our culture puts money and violence on way too high of a pedestal. I think these days people no longer see the line between entertainment and reality." This can be seen in his work on mirrors where he combines American iconography with the theme of infinity to hint at an almost parody of the American Dream. To find out more and to see Gronquist's work in reality, head down to Unit London for the *Shape Shifter* exhibition running from 11 January to 17 February.





Peter Gronquist and Unit London

1. Where were you born?

Portland, Oregon.

2. What did you want to be when you were growing up?

An artist since I could walk.

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3. What is the best piece of advice you have ever received? What is the worst?

Have kids! Also, have kids!

4. Who is the one person, dead or alive, that you would like to have dinner with and why?

Nina Simone. I would love to hear her voice in person just once.

5. Where is your favourite place on this planet?

Oregon.

6. What is your phone screensaver at the moment?

My kids.

7. What is currently on your playlist?

Nina Simone, Nipsey Hussle, Aminé, Talking Heads, Gang Starr.

8. What are your last three Google searches?

Definitely all relating to my six-year-old's next **Halloween costume** (Pennywise the clown).

9. What gives you inspiration?

Colour, light, my family and friends, sadness.

10. We all love a movie night, so what is your favourite film of all time?

Easy, *Pee-wee's Big Adventure*.

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11. What is your favourite art gallery in the world and why?

That's impossible.

12. If you could collaborate with anyone, who would it be and why?

I'm not a big collaborator.

13. What is your favourite sandwich filling?

Peanut butter.

14. If you could visit any artist's studio, whose would you visit and why?

I always wanted to go to Murakami's studio.

15. What was the last thing you bought?

Three bagels with cream cheese.

16. What is your favourite piece of clothing you own?

My waxed Levi's beige work jacket, or my late grandfather's fur hat.

17. What is hanging on your walls at home?

A lot of art, friends' work and old stuff of mine.

18. What is one staple item all men should own?

A hundred black tees.

19. What is your favourite cartoon and why?

Recently, *BoJack Horseman*. It's at once the saddest and most hysterical thing on television.

20. So, what is next for Peter Gronquist?

My solo exhibition *Shape Shifter* at Unit London, then Untitled San Francisco art fair, then another solo at Winston Wächter in Seattle in June. Always painting!

Peter Gronquist and Unit London

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