



July 30, 2015

Hugh the Hunter

Zachary Heinzerling captures a gun-totin' sculptor in pursuit of his prey

"I had this image of a black man dressed in traditional Scottish tweed, roaming the Heather moorland with two dogs and a shotgun, hunting wild birds," says director Zachary Heinzerling of *Hugh the Hunter*, a 'surrealist recontextualization' of the work of Brooklyn-based sculptor Hugh Hayden, starring the man himself.

"I had this image of a black man dressed in traditional Scottish tweed, roaming the Heather moorland with two dogs and a shotgun"

Set in the remote burgh of Dufftown, where Hayden recently completed an artist's residency, and which is home to one of the few remaining private shooting estates in Scotland, the Academy Award-nominated director wanted to subvert the format of the traditional artist profile, as well as narratives about identity and race. "I'm interested in finding new audiences for artists who typically show work in a gallery space," he says.

Contrary to the methods of contemporary 'taxidermy' artists who insist on using animals already found dead, Hayden hunts his own aviary prey, whose feathers he includes in his controversial work (and whose flesh he eats), alongside tweeds, which mimic natural substances such as bark.

Hugh the Hunter screens August 12th at Postmasters Gallery, New York.