

James Gilbert at Light & Sie

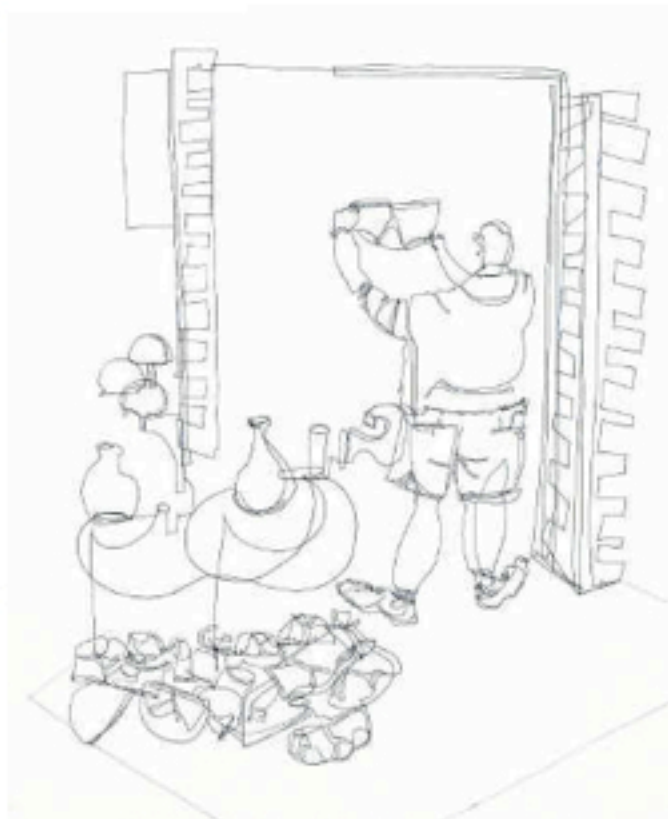
Google, YouTube, reality TV and the Patriot Act have collectively eroded the private sphere. With his untitled machine- and hand-sewn white plastic underwear, the Los Angeles artist James Gilbert delves deeper into the misfortunes of the privation of privacy: Your privates are now public.

A pile of Mr. Gilbert's plastic panties sits on the floor and a neat stack lies inside a plexiglass box on a white podium in the back gallery at Light & Sie. The panties are the only unworn garments in the would-be soiree suggested by Mr. Gilbert's installation of plastic luminescent garments hanging from the ceiling. Made of industrial-grade translucent white plastic, hep suits and haute couture dresses dangle from the ceiling on invisible acrylic thread. Anonymous and uninhabited, they mingle in groups of three and four.

Without faces, the figures in Mr. Gilbert's black-and-white line drawings circling the wall give form to a logic of celebrity that works in inverse proportions. The more of you that is public, the less of you there is. Mr. Gilbert shoots Jane Austen's 19th-century London through the prism of the 21st-century Los Angeles as he makes a statement on society's obsession with stardom and recognition.

Charissa N. Terranova

"I Know Everything About You and We Haven't Met" is on display through July 19 at Light & Sie, 129 Leslie St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Free. 214-745-2255, www.lightandsie.com.



James Gilbert's drawing *Buying a Pair of See Through Underpants* is on view at Light & Sie.