

Family Review

Will Boone: The Highway Hex

November 9, 2019–February 16, 2020



The River, 2019. Acrylic on wood, neon, and hardware. 24 x 240 x 5 inches. Image and work courtesy the artist and David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, California, and Karma, New York, New York.

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Will Boone: The Highway Hex is the artist's first solo museum exhibition and features his first long-form video alongside new sculptures and paintings. In the exhibition, Boone continues to investigate themes salient to his artistic practice, such as storytelling and unconventional portraiture, while examining the symbolism and mystique of Texas. The exhibition title refers to a bizarre medical condition called highway hypnosis, or "white line fever," where a driver enters an altered mental state and can operate a car for great distances in a safe manner with no memory of having done so.

The exhibition revolves around a narrative video titled *Sweet Perfume* (2019) which centers on the iconic character Leatherface (referred to as "Face" in this adaptation), lifted from the 1974 horror film *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, directed by Tobe Hooper. Inspired by fan fiction, *Sweet Perfume* gives Face a new personal trajectory. The film does contain strong language, consumption of alcohol, marijuana usage, and violence (including imagery of a cop shooting someone who is trying to run away). Additionally, the film includes images

of the gang MS13, and the Los Angeles riots.

The gallery space is dimly lit and while many of the sculptures are sets or props used in the film, they are not to be touched, with the exception of *Resting Place* (2019) which visitors can sit on while viewing the film.

There are no wall labels, but a laminated pamphlet with more information about the exhibition that can be found near the gallery entrance.



A Picture of Me (Without You), 2019. Wood, automotive paint, speakers, car stereo, and Plexiglas. 64 x 36 x 18 inches. Image and work courtesy the artist and David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, California, and Karma, New York, New York.