

VMAN

17

SPRING 2010



NICK JONAS

HOW TO BE
A ROCK STAR

THE JONAS BROTHER FLIES SOLO

PHOTOGRAPHED BY
MARIO TESTINO
IN CALVIN KLEIN COLLECTION
BRACELET AND RING CARTIER
NECKLACE DAVID YURMAN

HOW TO
LIVE THE
VMAN LIFE

FEATURING
NICHOLAS HOULT
ADAM LAMBERT
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DAREN KAGASOFF
MARK SALLING
PAUL WESLEY
ANDRES SEGURA
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THE SECRET INGREDIENT IS FOAM

NICK VAN WOERT IS A JOYFUL SCULPTOR

Nick van Woert is interested in the structure of things. Gesturing toward an epoxy-covered metal sculpture leaning against his studio wall, the young sculptor casually mentions how it was inspired by the giant billboard outside his window—not the advertisement for the blockbuster thriller, but the actual billboard itself. Gazing across outer Brooklyn's industrial landscape, he delights in the amount of effort that went into building a massive metal support structure that will be plastered over time and time again with cheap wheat-pasted paper.

Gangly, fresh-faced, and boyish at 30, van Woert talks about his art with a disarmingly happy smile on his face. Maybe his youthful vigor is a positive side effect from all of the toxic chemicals he uses for his work, which range from deceptively sleek pop abstractions decorated in shiny coats of plastic to off-kilter, quixotically jumbled stabiles gummed together with everything from Gorilla Glue to blandly multicolored landlord carpeting. "Carpet foam typically gets laid on top of a sub-floor and then

covered by a carpet," he says happily. "When I use it as a surface treatment, I'm suggesting something has been turned inside out or upside down. I'm trying to articulate an idea that has been lost or swept under the rug."

That's a lot of meaning to invest in a random industrial product that most of us never notice we're walking on. But that's van Woert's point: itchy pink insulation foam keeps us warm at night and gummy tar paper keeps the rain off our heads. You get the sense that if asbestos were still readily available, van Woert would work it into one of his sculptures. "The materials I choose have an intended purpose outside of the context I use them in," he says, "and it's that purpose that carries metaphor and meaning for me."

Van Woert's constructions are whimsical and deceptively simple. There's a Jeff Koons quality to the Roman busts covered in brightly colored resin and a Mike Kelley-esque aspect to a mobile showing the planets in the solar system orbiting a turd. Van Woert isn't just interested in the crappy materials that make up the building blocks of modern living, he likes to make them balance out in oddly lovely ways. **KEN MILLER**

NICK VAN WOERT IN NYC, DECEMBER 2009

PHOTOGRAPHY ADRIAN GAUT

STYLING AKARI ENDO-GAUT

NICK WEARS SHIRT AND PANTS **REISS**

VAN WOERT WILL HAVE A SOLO EXHIBITION AT THE GRIMM GALLERY IN AMSTERDAM THIS FALL



PHOTOGRAPHY DANIEL MARTIN (THE WALL GROUP)
PRODUCTION SARAH FRICK SMITH (ART + COMMERCE)