

# *Phantasmagoria*

## Audio guide

Isaac Lythgoe

HENRY MOORE  
INSTITUTE

### Stop 9.

Hi, I'm Isaac Lythgoe and I'm a sculptor.

In *The truth is only what we get away with*, a goat stands with his front two feet on a chair. His head is turned and he's blowing a large bubble gum. The work is a composite of materials. The hooves are cast aluminium. The body of the goat is fibreglass and pigments and paint. And as we turn around the goat, we see that his skin hinges open and internally reveals a network of pipe and engineered parts. These parts, although they appear metal, like many other parts around the sculpture, they're in fact plastic and painted in a chrome finish that is often used in prop making. When we come down the goat's front two feet onto the chair, we see a chair that is made from carved oak and cast aluminium and goat rawhide, which is stretched much like you'd stretch a drum. The goat rawhide has a translucent quality, picks through the light.

Texturally, everything in this work is soft. Matte finishes really blur the... it's hard to determine exactly what materials are what. It came out of the idea that a currency that is sort of spread through culture seems to be an acceptance that not everything is as it seems, and that the area that seems to define politics and culture in a broader sense is this idea of post-truth. And I find it somewhat strange that we call an era of post-truth when we have more resources to fact check anything than ever before. And so I really wanted to make a figure that at

once felt present and alive and also told its own lies. It is a goat coyishly blowing, a big bubble gum. And then when you turn around the work, it really reveals itself to not be that at all. It's roboticised, it's fabricated. It's not. It's an illusion.

This is the end of Stop 9.

This is a transcript of an audio guide produced by Henry Moore Institute for the exhibition *Phantasmagoria*, on display from 15 May to 30 August 2026. For more information visit [henry-moore.org/phantasmagoria](https://henry-moore.org/phantasmagoria)