

BRACO DIMITRIJEVIC *Culturescapes, 2014*

23.10 – 22.11.2014

"For most people, peacocks and paintings are as distant as one galaxy from another. It is good to bring those things together, to show that the impossible can be possible"

Braco Dimitrijevic, 1981

Culturescapes form a branch of art that explores the notion that our environment is not a physical space but cultural heritage. They create new structures out of previously known elements, explore meanings and relationships of different cultural data, and escape traditional value judgements. This definition refers to a body of Dimitrijevic's works, which seek inspiration from existing cultural idioms. It also evokes his direct appropriation of original masterpieces from museum collections.

Dimitrijevic's recent sculptures follow the semantic structural pattern of his Triptychos Post Historicus, installations that the artist has been creating over the past 40 years at various museums using the masterpieces from the museums' collections, juxtaposing them with everyday objects and fruits of nature. One such installation alongside Francis Picabia's original painting was exhibited in the artist's first solo show at the gallery in 2012.

For this second solo exhibition, the artist modelled a head after Brancusi's Muse, which is emblematic of modernist sculpture, and accompanied it with a natural element— real coconuts, providing another echo of the Triptychos Post Historicus installations.

In audacious sculptural compositions, the noble and eternal bronze material is composed with the warm colour and texture of real coconuts, the transparency of a glass panel or the softness of a cloth.

By using exotic fruit, Dimitrijevic evokes the origin of Western modernist sculpture in traditional African art. Sculptures that are at once joyful and sophisticated are the artist's creative contribution to the current debate on the role of so-called 'primitivism' in 20th Century art, our view to the Other and the place attributed to the Other in the cultural establishment of the West.

Braco Dimitrijević was the subject of more than 150 solo exhibitions including shows at Tate Gallery London, Kunsthalle Bern, Ludwig Museum Cologne, Van Abbemuseum Eindhoven., Kunsthalle Dusseldorf, Israel Museum Jerusalem, MUMOK Vienna, ICA London, Musée d'Orsay, Russian State Museum St. Petersburg, Musée d'Art Moderne de Saint Etienne., Museum Ludwig Budapest.

The list of group exhibitions also includes participations at Documenta in Kassel (1972, 1976 and 1993), at Venice Biennale (1976, 1982, 1990, 1993, 2009), São Paulo Biennale, SITE Santa Fe, Sydney Biennale, Havana Biennale, the New Museum New York, Moscow Biennale, Helsinki Biennale, Magiciens de la Terre at Centre G. Pompidou in Paris among other.