

Nebojša Despotović

DIAMONDS AND RUST



Friday 2nd March 2012 from 6.00pm to 8.00pm

FaMa Gallery

Corso Cavour 25/27, Verona, Italy

Press Release

The second appointment of **FaMa Gallery's** project **BASEMENT** starts on **Friday 2nd March 2012**. The new project space of the Gallery - a space of planned research, which supports the up-and-coming artists' production of new works and flanks the normal gallery's activity - was inaugurated last October with the artist Sinta Werner's solo exhibition and is hosting now the Serbian artist **Nebojša Despotović** as protagonist of this second appointment.

Nebojša Despotović thoroughly exploits the collective iconographic heritage recycling old photographs and images, newspapers, books, handbooks and magazines, which are the starting point for the artist to create his paintings.

Despotović's research, which pays particular attention to the definition and representation of the concept of identity, only apparently saves these images from the oblivion of time: covered and altered with painting they acquire an indefinite and outdated character which takes them back to a remote past. In his portraits and paintings - characterized by gloomy colours and thick brush strokes - the protagonists' features, as well as the details of the landscapes and of the scenarios, are just hinted at.

The attention is not focused on the detail but on the evoked atmospheres

recalling ages, lives, stories and events which do not exist anymore and of which the viewer can perceive the distance and loss.

DIAMONDS AND RUST, the project realized for BASEMENT, arises from a suggestion: the underground space of the Gallery - which hosts the event - reminds of the concept of a bunker.

Despotović, who has already shown interest in these fortifications built during wartime in the past, does not interpret them as dark places of violence, but as places of memory, underlining their importance as intimate spaces of everyday life; moreover they keep traces of the lives of those who passed through them.

Despotović's installation for FaMa BASEMENT does not alter the exhibition space but it recreates, in a sort of three-dimensional collage, a bunker used as a children's room, thus evoking not only a physical but above all an inner and emotive space.

Every item of the installation - the painting, the big black and not homogeneous surface scratched with chalks, the rug with geometric patterns, the two embroidered images evoking the glorious past of a nation - is independent and, at the same time, it is part of the entire scene created by the artist.

The scene - as it often happens with Despotović - is dominated by an oppressive atmosphere, underlined by dull colours, different grey tones and the use of black, thus highlighting the distance between us and a forgotten past that seems to come to new life in an enigmatic and anachronistic way.

Biographical notes

Born in Belgrade (Serbia, on 04.03.1982). He lives and works in Berlin.

In 2011 he obtained a Master's degree in Visual and Performing Arts at the Venice Academy.

In 2006 he obtained a Bachelor's degree in Painting at the Venice Academy of Fine Arts.

2011 Artist in residence at Atelier Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation

Selected solo exhibition

2010- "*Velvet glove*", Arte Boccanera Contemporanea, Trento, curated by Daniele Capra

2010 - "*Backdoor*", Galleria UPP, Venice

2009 - "*Human after all*", exhibition with Giacomo Roccon, Ex chiesa di Sant'Antonio, Badoere (TV), curated by Carlo Sala

Selected group exhibition

2011

D'Est - Home, a collection of young serbian artists, Palazzo Forti, Verona, curated by Aurora Fonda and Zara Audiello

Vulpes Pilum Mutare, curated by Carolina Lio and Infart Collective, Bassano del Grappa Museum.

Un-real time, Galleria Marcorossi artecontemporanea, Pietrasanta (LU).

ART festival Kränzelhof, in collaboration with Galleria Goethe 2 and ES Contemporary Art Gallery, Tscherms/Cermes (BZ)

54th International Art Exhibition Venice Biennale - Pavilion Academies, Tese of San Cristoforo Arsenale, Venice.

S.O.S.2, curated by di Viviana Siviero, Lab 610 XL De Faveri, Sovramonte

(BL)

Art stays 9, International contemporary art festival, Ptuj, Slovenia
Artist Talks - Open Studios, Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation, Venice
Essa(y), Magazzini del Sale, Venice, curated by Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia and Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation

2010

94-th group show, Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation, Venice
IN/Carne, curated by Eduardo di Mauro, Cominelli Foundation, San Felice del Benaco (BS)
Lost in painting, curated by Carlo Sala, Villa Brandolini, Pieve di Soligo (TV)
Once I lived here, curated by Carlo Sala and Gloria Vallese, Museo Civico, Asolo (TV).
Liquida-contemporary art festival- Preview, Santa Catrina Museum, Treviso, curated by Carlo Sala
Hotel A+A International, curated by Domitilla Musella, Galleria A+A, Venice
Recognition of new art in Veneto, Studio Bazzini Arte Contemporanea, Milan, curated by Carolina Lio
Living / Leaving, curated by Gloria Vallese, Oratorio di San Ludovico, Venice
The Berlin Wall, curated by Artan Shabani, Promenade Gallery, Vlore, (AL)

2009

93-th group show, Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation, Venice
Autumn Show, Cvijeta Zuzoric pavilion, Belgrade, curated by ULUS association
Immagine - the new vision of the generation '80, GiaMaArt studio, Vitulano (BN), curated by Carolina Lio
The CREAM Society, curated by Gloria Vallese and Carlo Sala, La Fornace dell'Innovazione, Asolo (TV)
Fairy Tales, curated by Carolina Lio, Galleria Antonio Battaglia, Milan
Rooted, curated by Marita Ruiter, Galerie Claire Fontane, Luxembourg
New figures 3- indiosincrasie, curated by Accademic Council of Venice Academy, Forte Marghera (VE)

2008

Reazione Mutante, curated by Giulia Ceschel, Bugno Art Gallery, Venice
Devozioni domestiche, curated by Riccardo Caldura, Galleria Contemporaneo, Mestre (VE)
CREAM on madness, OPEN 11 - international exhibition of sculptures and installations, San Servolo island, curated by Paolo De Grandis, Gloria Vallese
Schlaglichter, curated by Paola Alborghetti, GEH8, Dresda (D)
Nuova Luce, curated by Domitilla Musella, Galleria A+A, Venezia

2007

Accadè, curated by Giulia Ceschel and Paola Alborghetti, Galleria Totem Il Canale, Venice

2006

In notte placida, curated by Aldo Grazi, Villa Manin, Passariano (UD)
Proposte per comunicare la Novantesima Collettiva Giovani, Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation, Venice
OPEN 06- international exhibition of sculptures and installations, San Servolo island, curated by Paolo De Grandis, Gloria Vallese, Vincenzo Sanfo e Chang Tsong-Zung, Venice

Open Atelier, curated by Gloria Vallese, Villa Vecelli Cavriani, Verona

2004

Sotto l'attico, curated Raffaella Cargnelutti, Palazzo Frisacco, Tolmezzo, (UD)

Awards and Mentions

2012 - Euromobil Prize under 30, Artefiera Art First, Bologna

2010 - Lissone Prize , Contemporary Art Museum Lissone

2008 - Great mention for the best foreign artist, "Arte Laguna prize", Mogliano Veneto

2006 - Prize Italian Factory for young italian painting, Casa del pane, Milan, curated by Alessandro Riva

Fact sheet

Title	Nebojša Despotović DIAMONDS AND RUST
Venue	FaMa Gallery Corso Cavour 25/27, Verona, Italy
Opening	Friday 2nd March 2012 from 6.00pm to 8.00pm
Opening times	10am - 1pm and 2.30pm - 7.30pm closed on Mondays and holidays
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