

GALERIE NATHALIE OBADIA

PARIS - BRUSSELS

Joris Van de Moortel Getting Comfortable Slowly

5 September — 16 November 2013
Rue Charles Decoster 8 - Bruxelles 1050



The Nathalie Obadia Gallery is pleased to present the work of Joris Van de Moortel in his first solo show in Brussels.

The artist was born in Ghent in 1983, and graduated from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of Antwerp in 2012, and he works and lives in Antwerp. After being a resident at the HISK (Higher Institute of Fine Arts) in Ghent in 2008-2009, and then at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin in 2012-2013, Joris Van de Moortel will have total freedom to take over the entire space of the Nathalie Obadia Gallery in Brussels, as he has already done in the BKSM i.s.m. SMAK in Strombeek (2013), and the Centraal Museum in Utrecht (2012).

Painter, sculptor, performer and musician, Joris Van de Moortel will use the post-industrial architecture of the gallery to encompass his many-shaped work that is transformed to set off the space exhibiting it. A good example of this adaptation is his *Cylinder*, that was first inaugurated at the Transpalette in 2012 (Contemporary Art Centre in Bourges), and then moved to Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin, in 2013.

Vertical or horizontal in keeping with the available height, this aluminium cylinder takes over the premises and the viewers invited on the inaugural day attend an explosive musical performance that uses the artwork as a sound box. The artist-musician sets up his mobile, short-lived concert hall in the exhibit, where the unplugged instruments are left on the spot with all the features of a «trash» performance (projection of paintings, slashed aluminium partitions, broken glass, scattered cables and equipment, etc.).



Cylinder, 6 x 3 m, Aluminium, neon, musical equipment, fog machine, 2012, Installation view at Le Transpalette, Bourges, France.



Joris Van de Moortel, The Release/act #1, Wall sculpture, 200 x 100 x 6 cm, 2013.

As Christine Ollier pointed out in 2012, reminiscent of Mike Kelley's provocation or the punk nihilism like of Steven Parrino, who smashed his own paintings with a sledge hammer, Joris Van de Moortel is happy to leave the trappings of his creative process. But, while the content of Joris' installations may be both radical and iconoclast, his works do not have Steven Parrino's «feeling of disenchantment».

Their misuse and their humour enact «a poetic reversal recalling the wit of Marcel Duchamp or Marcel Broodthaers». In fact, the artist unwittingly paid homage to Duchamp in 2008 with the installation of the *Grand verre, Zelfs*, that made a sensation during the Volta Basel at the Hoet Bekaert Gallery.

What Joris Van de Moortel's performances destroy, his installations reconstruct, by means of his inimitable reversal process. His artwork takes on its sculptural form only after completing this much improvised process.

In 2012, the artists began adding video and projections of images to his works. At this time, we cannot give a detailed description of what he is going to do, since uncertainty is an integral part of his artistic approach. For the moment, only one thing is certain, Joris van de Moortel's works that will be imagined on site, will occupy the three floors of the Nathalie Obadia Gallery in Brussels, using the voids and shapes of the surrounding architecture. The central scheme will incorporate the hanging system developed for *Out of Balance*, a work designed in 2012 for the BKSM in Strombeek.

To spite gravity, a cable will maintain the installation in weightlessness. The sensation is one of a precarious balance illustrating the constant tension between order and chaos that personifies his work, both plastic and musical. The feeling of instability cast by his installations is the vector of their meaning and the basis of the emotion they create.

BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1983 Ghent, Belgium. Lives and works in Antwerp, Belgium

2012 : Master in fine arts, MFA, Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Antwerp, Belgium

RESIDENCES

2012-2013 : Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Germany

2008-2009 : HISK, Higher Institute for Fine Arts, Ghent, Belgium

PERSONAL EXHIBITS (SELECTION)

2013 : *Getting Comfortable Slowly*, Nathalie Obadia Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
Scharz oder weiss es ist mir gleich, es gibt keine farben in diesem blauen reich, Schauraum Kunst lerhaus
Bethanien, Berlin, Germany
Fruchtfleisch unser architektur, exhibition in collaboration with Paul Scher, Galerie Karl Pfefferle, Munich, Germany

2012 : *Inside the white cylinder*, solo show, Le Transpalette / Centre d'art Contemporain, Bourges, France

2010 : *Like a hurricane (you are like)*, Michael Janssen Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2009 : *La grande verre*, zelfs, Volta Basel, Hoet Bekaert Gallery, Basel, Switzerland

2008 : *The door and the floor*, Hoet Bekaert Gallery, Ghent, Belgium

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITS

2013 : *Upside down Part 2 Let's Dance*, Cultuurcentrum Strombeek, Ghent, Belgium
Young Collectors, Maison Particulière, Brussels, Belgium
Shame (hide and show), Error#20, pianofabriek, Brussels, Belgium
21ste Eeuw buiten, Antwerp, Belgium

2012 : *Spontaneously*, Zacheta National Gallery of Art in Warsaw, Poland
Exploded view, Centraal Museum, Utrecht, Netherlands
Revolving Doors, Cultuurcentrum Strombeek, Brussels, Belgium
In the artist's absence, The collective, Durban, South Africa

2011 : *All hell broke loose*, Tournai, Belgium
Depot, Hoet Bekaert Gallery, Ghent, Belgium
Sediment, Ename Sculpture, Ename, Belgium
Young Belgian Painters' Award 2011, Palais des Beaux Arts (BOZAR), Brussels, Belgium
Art's Birthday, performance, MuHKA, Antwerp, Belgium

2010 : *Sequence N° 5: Specificity*, curated by Jérôme Cotinet, Fort du Bruissin, Lyon, France

2009 : *Into the light*, Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp, Belgium

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Galerie Nathalie Obadia
Brussels

Joris Van de Moortel
Getting Comfortable Slowly
5 September - 16 November 2013
Opening Septembre 5th, 2013

Galerie Nathalie Obadia
Paris
Bourg-Tibourg

Jean Dewasne
Anti-sculptures
12 September - 31 October 2013
Opening Septembre 12th, 2013

Brook Andrew
7 November - 31 December
Opening November 7th, 2013

Galerie Nathalie Obadia
Paris
Cloître Saint-Merri

Rosson Crow
RECONSTRUCTION
7 September - October, 2013
Opening September 7th, 2013

Carole Benzaken
Oui, l'homme est un arbre des champs
14 November - 11 Janvier 2014
Opening November 14th, 2013