

GAZELLI ART HOUSE



Temporary Monument Nr: O coqueiro, 2015

Fyodor Pavlov-Andreevich *Decorative Sacredness*

Private View: Thursday 23rd May, 6–8pm

Exhibition: 24th May–29th June, 2019

“His art is capable of surprising us with ever new ways of seeing the world we live in.”

Marina Abramovic on Fyodor Pavlov-Andreevich

Gazelli Art House is pleased to present *Decorative Sacredness*, the first solo show of Fyodor Pavlov-Andreevich that will explore his performance based practice over the past ten years. Marking his return to London after a decade, the exhibition comprises photographic and video installations as well as a series of new sculptural works. *Decorative Sacredness* reveals the artist’s critical examination of modern slavery and is a timely artistic intervention amidst the ongoing discussions on the unknown scale of the criminal practice in the UK and internationally.

Bringing together two distinct strands of the artist’s work, *Decorative Sacredness* takes its title cue from the new series *Small Heroic Sculptures*, where five sculptural pieces aim to capture and condense the essence of one performance piece each into a physical object. The seemingly oxymoronic nature of this project – translating time-based forms of expression into intransigent physical works – raises important questions about the interaction between the artist’s work and the viewer. Presenting themselves with beguiling decorativeness on the surface, upon closer scrutiny the intricately sculpted works draw the spectator into a game of discovery, using the profane as a prop to lure the eye from the surface towards the sacred.

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Organised around the allegorical number of seven, Pavlov-Andreevich's series of video works *Temporary Monuments* correspond to seven episodes of suffering of Brazilian slaves, both alluding to the historical past and those recorded in more recent times. Each of the episodes recorded by the artist is an iteration of the eternal attempt to break the chains of slavery, – or at least to raise critical awareness by acknowledging it out loud. Connecting with the practice of American artist Paul Thek, *Temporary Monuments* will be installed as frames inside plywood boxes along the walls, mounted above small chairs to kneel on, and only accessible by entering the head through an opening in the viewing box. This mode of presentation requires the viewer to take an interactive stance and to engage on a more personal level by opening up to an intimate and up-close encounter with the minute screens.

The exhibition concludes with large-scale, limited edition photographic installations that share the common themes introduced by the seven *Temporary Monuments*.

'We are incredibly excited to show Fyodor's comprehensive body of work produced over the past decade and to introduce his latest series, the Small Heroes Sculptures,' said the Founder and CEO of Gazelli Art House, Mila Askarova.

Fyodor Pavlov-Andreevich is a performance artist and curator living and working between Moscow, London and Sao Paulo. He creates site-specific installations and long-duration performance works that have been presented internationally and under the curatorship of Hans Ulrich Obrist, RoseLee Goldberg and Marina Abramovic. His installation, *Performance Carousel*, received Grand Prix at Kuryokhin Art Prize 2015 (shared with Ragnar Kjartnasson). On completing the fifth episode of his guerilla work, *The Foundling*, which saw the artist donating his body locked in a clear box to institutions that reject or ignore live art, at Met Gala in New York in May 2017, the artist was imprisoned in the US. Solo presentations include Deitch Projects (2009, NYC), Faena Arts Center (2014, Buenos Aires), Künstlerhaus Wien (2016, Vienna), and Palais de Tokyo (2018, Paris). The artist is included in the publications *Marina Abramovic And The Future Of Performance Art* (2010, Prestel), *Performance Now: 2000-2013* (2015, Thames & Hudson) by RoseLee Goldberg, and *Visionaire 25* (Rizzoli, 2016).

The exhibition will run alongside the group show titled *It's Not Me, It's You* displayed on the first floor of the gallery featuring works by Cassils, Zachary Drucker, Nan Goldin, and Gray Wielebinski.

About

Gazelli Art House supports a wide range of international artists, presenting a broad and dynamic programme to a diverse audience through global public projects and exhibition spaces in London and Baku. Gazelli Art House was founded in 2003 in Baku, Azerbaijan where it held exhibitions with Azeri artists. Having hosted conceptually interlinked off-site exhibitions across London, founder and director of Gazelli Art House, Mila Askarova, opened a permanent space on Dover Street, London in March 2012. In 2017, the redesigned gallery space reopened in Baku, with an ambitious annual program showcasing both local and international artists. Representing artists like Aziz+Cucher, Derek Boshier, Stanley Casselman, Francesco Jodice, Recycle Group, Kalliopi Lemos, Niyaz Najafov and Saad Qureshi amongst others, the gallery has built a consistent and diverse program with artists working in sculpture, photography, painting, video, performance and virtual reality.

For further information on *Decorative Sacredness*
please contact: press@gazelliarthouse.com