



Joris Van de Moortel: *Rotten Sun*

Denis Gardarin Gallery Presents the First Solo Exhibition of Joris Van de Moortel at UNTITLED, Miami Beach from December 1 - 6, 2015

New York, November 17, 2015: Denis Gardarin Gallery is pleased to present *Rotten Sun*, an installation of new works by Belgian artist Joris Van de Moortel at UNTITLED, Miami Beach (Booth B3). This is the artist's first solo exhibition in the United States.

Embodying the fervent spirit of concrete music and rock and roll, Van de Moortel's process-driven work encompasses sculpture, painting and musical performance to explore the tension between the static nature of objects and their potential for energy. Hanging at the precipice of "doing" and "undoing" – through planned accidents and improvisation – Van de Moortel transfigures objects, stripping them of their original function and meaning to give rise to new forms.

The exhibition theme *Rotten Sun* is drawn from a George Bataille essay, which frames the sun as a paradoxical phenomenon – an exalted force capable of both creation and destruction. As an amplification of his performance work which climaxes in cathartic instrumental destruction, Van de Moortel's mixed media paintings, figurative drawings and sculptures are the assemblage of musical instrument fragments, neon tubing and other remnants of performance debris that, when combined, achieve an unexpected sense of harmony. As an index of prior actions, he lays bare the permanent tension that exists between order and chaos. This brutal narrative animates his works

with no clear beginning, middle or end, only constant and energetic flux. Yet the deft with which he treats their presentation reveals precision and a pure sense of refinement. Van de Moortel has said that his process “*functions as a modus to let the unexpected slip in, and in which everything is in constant movement and an ever changing position, so nothing becomes static.*”

Like Arte Povera artist Mario Merz’s use of neon which galvanized everyday objects and fused the organic with the inorganic, Van de Moortel creates dynamic, self-contained environments and applies neon as brushstrokes that escape the contour of representation, creating a force of energy and freeing itself from the frame. In *Dramatic lightning and billows of fog, it’s rare for any two performances to sound and look the same* (2015), worship and desecration run like alternating currents through the sculptural composition. The arrangement of a microphone, cables, resin-covered speaker and pieces of a drum contained within the wooden frame suggests an unseen stage, while two curvilinear neon tubes cast a glow that bleeds like a wash of color across the work’s surface. The smashed gear and pulse of light shiver with the unexpected harmony of calm seen only after destruction.

In Van de Moortel’s *Bird House* (2015), the most ambitious work in the installation, speakers covered in thick resin animate an orchestral watchtower. The objects, formally energized by music and sound, are now muted and an aluminum bar violently pierces the objects as neon casts energetic light on the sculpture’s immaterial dimensions. The sculpture is one of a new series of six included in Van de Moortel’s upcoming solo museum exhibition opening later this month at Be-Part Center for Contemporary Art in Waregem, Belgium. A new monograph of Van de Moortel will be published with a chapter devoted to the *Rotten Sun* exhibition at UNTITLED, Miami Beach.

About the Artist

Joris Van de Moortel (Ghent, 1983) lives and works in Antwerp. Having graduated from the HISK (Ghent) in 2009, and residing at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien (Berlin) in 2012 and 2013, his works have been exhibited in various international institutions, including the Palais de Tokyo, Paris; the Central Museum, Utrecht; the Museum Cultuur Strombeek, Grimbergen; the Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin; the Fondation Boghossian – Villa Empain, Brussels; the Musée Sainte-Croix, Poitiers and the Maison des Arts, Malakoff. Van de Moortel recently completed a collaboration with fashion designer A. F. Vandervorst.

About Denis Gardarin Gallery

Denis Gardarin Gallery was founded in 2014 to engage with the cultural shift in art production and reception in this era of globalization. Building on over 20 years of experience in cultural institutions and top art galleries including Sikkema Jenkins & Co., Sean Kelly, and White Cube, Gardarin interrogates the notion of physical site through a migrating program that mounts museum-quality exhibitions in an international context. Denis Gardarin Gallery focuses on comprehensive investigations of artists who are leaders across disciplines, movements, and eras to expand the scope and reception of their vision. Initially focusing on the practices of French conceptual artist Mathieu Mercier, early leader of Brazilian Concrete Movement Geraldo de Barros, and key figure of the Post-Actionist movement Rudolf Polanszky with his first US exhibition spanning over 30 years currently on view at the gallery in NYC. The gallery is also presenting projects with abstract artist Joseph La Piana and Israeli performance artist Naama Tsabar.

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Untitled Miami Beach

1215 Ocean Dr., Miami Beach, FL 33139

On view: Wednesday, December 2nd through Saturday, December 5th | 11AM – 7PM

Sunday, December 6th | 10AM – 5PM

For further press information and images, please contact: molly.g.krause@gmail.com

Visit denisgardarin.com for information and schedule of upcoming events.



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