

ANDIPA GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BE - HEAD

Exhibition Dates: 18 November - 15 December 2010

Performance by Søren Dahlgaard: 13 November, 2.00pm - 4.00pm,



Andipa Contemporary is pleased to announce *Be-Head*, a group exhibition in which a host of artists, including Gavin Turk, confront the genre of the portrait head-on. Though unexpected, varied and unique, each artist's work is united in its portrayal of the human head not in terms of the individual but as a reflection of the universal.

Danish performance artist Søren Dahlgaard invites intrepid passers-by, and selected celebrities, to collaborate in creating his London Dough Portrait series (further details to follow).

Claire Mander, Curator of Special Projects for Andipa Gallery comments:

"What is a body without a head? What is a head without a body?"

According to the Be-Head artists it is:

The passer-by who politely acquiesces to sitting with fresh warm dough oozing down their head leaving them refigured, unidentifiable, only the fine imprint of their features on the inside of the dough mask. The massive head carved from a neat pile of wet bricks, fired in an enormous brick kiln, allowed to crack, to age serenely. The head on a stick bound tight by red white and blue ribbons, hemmed in, silent but struggling.

The head is the seat of the intellect and the imagination, the apogee of expression, containing the brain and dressed with the sense organs. Artists have for millennia separated the head from the body to express both the singularity of the individual and the universality of the archetype. The Be-Head artists have seemingly all walked the long corridors of the museums flanked by exquisitely executed portrait busts of stylised Egyptian rulers, Roman emperors and magnificent ladies.

Be-Head artists confront the genre of the portrait head on: they approach the head not so much as part of an individual but as part of humanity. Where there is a sitter, his or her individuality is overwhelmed by the process of painting, performance or sculpture. Others work only from the imagination, others reinterpret (mock, even) the great tradition of portraiture by using unusual, low materials like brick or plaster or dough. Where the noble bronze is used, it does not conform to the 'traditional' scale. It is made minute, almost insignificant and reproduced.

Ultimately, there is a refreshing absence of anxiety or violence, a vitality in the mixture of classical and contemporary sources and a immense physical and mental investment in the process of representing the quintessence of the human condition."

The exhibition will take place at Andipa Gallery, Knightsbridge, London, from the 18 November to 15 December 2010, with a performance by Søren Dahlgaard: 13 November, 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

Full Artist List:

Gavin Turk, Emily Young, Søren Dahlgaard, Peter Burke, Sam Bakewell, David Buckley, Andro Semeiko, Shivashtie Poonwassie

For further press information and images please contact Rosa Attwood by email at press@andipa.com or by telephone +44 (0)20 7589 2371.

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Notes to Editors

Exhibition information

Exhibition Dates: 18 November – 15 December 2010
Andipa Gallery, 162 Walton Street, London, SW3 2JL Tel: 020 7589 2371 / www.andipa.com

Opening times: Monday to Friday: 9:30am – 6pm, Saturday 11am – 6pm
Closest tube stations: Knightsbridge and South Kensington

Acoris Andipa, Director of Andipa Gallery and Claire Mander, Curator of Special Projects, are available for interviews.

Private View and Press Day

Private View: 6.00pm – 9.00pm, 17 November 2010

Press Day: 2.00pm – 9.00pm, 17 November 2010, members of the press are welcome to join us for a glass of wine and snacks from 2.00pm onwards. Meetings with many of the artist, a private tour of the exhibition and further information regarding each artist can be made available with confirmation of attendance prior to the event.

About Andipa Gallery

Andipa Contemporary exhibits, publishes and represents a selection of new contemporaries and operates as an arm of Andipa Gallery. Andipa Gallery is a specialist dealer in modern and contemporary masters ranging from Matisse, Picasso and Warhol, through to Damien Hirst and Banksy. Based in Knightsbridge for over 40 years, the gallery has a long-established reputation of providing clients with a high level of service in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere.

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