



DOMINIK LANG: GIRL WITH PIGEON

EXHIBITION DATES

11 July - 19 September 2015

OPENING FUNCTION

Wednesday 15 July 2015, 6-8pm

With remarks by Robyn McKenzie, writer and art historian

Czech artist Dominik Lang takes a preexisting bronze sculpture, the seated figure of a small girl, found abandoned in the studio of his late father artist Jiri Lang (1927-1996) as the departure point for the installation, *Girl with Pigeon*. Imagining his father's sculpture coming to life, Lang creates a series of sculpted movements—iterations of poses and gestures that the static figure would enact or perform, should it wake from its still position to move throughout the gallery. Lang places himself in the position of both sculptor and choreographer. Bringing a usually motionless medium to life, he represents movement, creating variants of the same body, navigating and directing the figure through the exhibition space.

Lang's desire is not to create a statuary of sculptural pieces that resemble a lapidarium-like display, but rather to stage an experience similar to that of watching a performance or a dance sequence, where each movement has a temporary stage that smoothly fuses into another. Here the sculptures are not perceived individually as a series of static figures, but rather as a circulation of the same figure through the space, leaving traces throughout

the gallery, as if one would see all the phases of a movement simultaneously. The audience will follow *Girl with Pigeon's* journey through the installation: standing up from a chair; walking through a room; leaving traces upon the floor; leaning forward; looking out a window; posing; and, returning to her original location.

Lang describes his figure as, 'a girl made of plaster with a plaster pigeon that sits on her hand, who travels to the other side of the world, perhaps to see an exhibition or to meet someone she once knew. She arrives with all her luggage to the museum but the gallery space is empty, or perhaps in the stage of installing or deinstalling a show. There are buckets of paint everywhere, ladders, cleaning tools, and part of the wall is being restored. The girl is alone in the space. There is no one to ask for advice or guidance. She feels lost. She walks around the space in circles. From time to time she sits on the floor and rests. For a little while she falls asleep. She leans towards the wall or hides when she hears some steps. No one is coming. She keeps waiting.'

Charlotte Day, Director MUMA comments, 'we are thrilled to host this, the first exhibition of Dominik Lang's work in Australia. Lang's installation in the Czech Pavilion was one of the stand out works at the 2011 Venice Biennale. Lang has not only made a work that is responsive to the gallery architecture but also connects thematically to MUMA's concurrent exhibition, Linda Marrinon's *Figure Sculpture*.'

DOMINIK LANG — BIOGRAPHY

Born 1980 in Prague, Czech Republic, Lang graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts, Prague in 2008. During this time he also studied at Coopers Union, New York and the Academy of Applied Arts, Prague. Lang was Curator, Jeleni Gallery, Center for Contemporary Arts, Prague from 2007 until 2011. Currently he heads the sculpture studio at the Academy of Applied Arts, Prague, with the curator Edith Jerabkova.

Lang is best known for his installation *Sleeping City* in the Czech Pavilion at the 2011 Venice Biennale (pictured). In this project he exhibited bronze sculptures made by his father Jiri Lang, during the 1950s and '60s. Presenting the originals among structures of iron, wood, glass and fabric, the pieces took on new meanings, wrapped in personal memories of the affectionate and artistic relation between father and son.

Lang was awarded the 2013 Jindrich Chaluppecky Award for Young Artists in the Czech Republic for his installation, *East-West* at the Prague National Gallery. Using the orientation of the building, Lang created an environment within the National Gallery central hall that tracked the path of the sun from sunrise until sunset, from horizon to horizon. *East-West* reflected the audience position in relation to architecture, the everyday rhythm and function of the hall itself, as well as objective and subjective perceptions of time.

Recent major projects include his installation *Expanded Anxiety*, Secession, Vienna, 2013, which focused on the work of the Czech Cubist sculptor Otto Gutfreund (1889-1927), a cubist-expressionist figure who attempted to mirror the surrounding of his sculptures, within the sculptures themselves. Lang reimagined the gallery itself as the interior space, a cave-like void, of Gutfreund's figure *Anxiety* (1911). Other recent solo exhibitions have included *Bone Collectors*, hunt kastner, Prague, 2015, *Desks and Boards*, Czech Centre, New York, 2014, *Missing Parts*, The Gallery Apart, Rome, 2013, *Humble Objects*, Kunsthaus Dresden, 2012, and *Private Collection*, Galerie Krobath, Berlin, 2011.

Dominik Lang is represented by Krobath Vienna | Berlin and hunt kastner, Prague.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Contact Kelly Fliedner at:
kelly.fliedner@monash.edu | 0418 308 059

