

"OBJETS TONIQUES"
(Tonic objects)

Davide D'Elia, Valerio Nicolai, Leonardo Petrucci, Ramiro Quesada Pons

6th March – 6th September 2020

NM is pleased to present the group show "Objets toniques" (Tonic objects) in collaboration with Port Tonic Art Center artistic residence in Les Issambres, Saint Tropez.

In the summer of 2019 four artists, three Italians and an Argentine lived together in the very particular place of Port Tonic, a former shipyard converted into a residence for artists by art collectors Xavier Magnan and Paolo Scarani.

The particularly wild place leans over the dock of the former shipyard and benefits from the large spaces where boats were built.

The clear, almost blinding light of the French Riviera has marked the long days of work while a starry black sky, sometimes only black, has characterized the nights.

Noise and light pollution are far away and the two owners ask the artists to bring almost nothing with them. They ask to live the place for a while before starting to work. However, the result will be unexpected.

The rock around the place is basaltic and the sea intrusive, its noise is perceived in the rooms and in the work spaces.

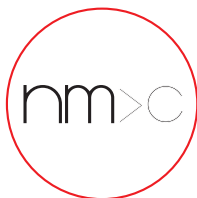
The resulting works will be imprinted with that light and that dark, with the deafening silence of nature, with those materials found on the spot and with those rocks and salty water that the environment has offered.

NM presents the "Tonic Objects" (Objets Tonics) show as a testimony of this peculiar experience and displays the works of art produced during the stay which are articulated in the most varied means of expression: paintings, sculptures, installations and videos.

The exhibition begins with a face to face between Davide D'Elia and Leonardo Petrucci. The two Italian artists lived in symbiosis during their residency and are now in dialogue in the first room with two large site-specifics.

Petrucci creates a wall drawing of two meters by two, entitled "Hyper Ammonite", a hypercube whose vertices are defined by 16 sculptures nailed to the wall and made with four

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hands with the nature of the place. The sculptures are ammonite shaped, they are made of cement, salty water and chopped shells and have been painted with cephalopod ink.

Each of them has a spiral form, an image dear to Petrucci for its alchemical and mystical meaning and all together they define a geometric figure that the human eye cannot see by definition because it has four dimensions.

Alongside the hypercube are : the "Lazy eclipses" series, result of a a very slow "lazy" proceeding with black paper on canvas during the eclipse of the moon; the "Atmospheric sculptures » and the « Golden Nugget » a basaltic rock found in the surroundings, with a natural shape already carved in itself and in which the artist has inserted a golden ammonite.

Davide D'Elia in turn presents "Sunserif" and the series of works "Fluo-ting". Sunserif has been obtained by treating and assembling the transparent dividing strips of the Allufer Tempesta shipyards, and it was installed at Port Tonic as a curtain / horizon between the viewer and the sea. D'Elia adjusted the installation to the gallery space by regenerating the strips with the antifouling painting. All around, a series of buoys are distributed on several levels and following a chromatic scale from cold to heat. They are executed with acrylics and fluorescent paint on tartan or vintage damask from which the ironic title : « Fluo-ting » (instead of floating).

In the second room the works of Valerio Nicolai and Ramiro Quesada Pons are in dialogue. The Italian artist Valerio Nicolai presents "Baked ham storm", a large painting depicting a cut of ham whose veins look like storm lightning. The artist confirms his strong painting skills and his almost synaesthetic approach that makes a prosy subject an incredibly poetic and surprising one.

Ramiro Quesada, Argentinian, builds a tridimensional experience to the viewer, wrapping its corner in blue. A series of paintings are floating on the blu wall, they tell of a surrealistic, dreamy and ironic world where objects play an active role, bringing the narration outside the canvas. Hands, bottles, watches materialize in full-size sculptures placed on the blu carpet while a video projection is playing on the ground.

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For more information: info@nmcontemporary.com

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