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DAMIEN ROACH

Thought forms

MAARTEN VANDEN EYNDE

Industrial Evolution

-WUNDERKAMMER-

JANNIS KOUNELLIS

Senza titolo

April 24 – May 29, 2010

MEESEN DE CLERCQ
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Jannis KOUNELLIS
Senza titolo (Catrame II)

Since the mid-1960s, the vocabulary of materials of Jannis Kounellis (°1936) has consisted of organic and mineral substances, everyday objectives and steel sheets. His work *Senza Titolo* (2007) is an association of linen fabric and a metal bed attached vertically to steel sheets. This bed alludes, among other references, to his bed covered in uncarded wool, an emblematic work dating from 1969, now conserved at the Galleria d'arte moderna e contemporanea in Turin

In this work, Kounellis refers to the formal space of painting while clearly designating the object "bed". The finished linen fabric which is laid on the metal bed structure should be seen as the painter's blank canvas, like a virgin space, a receptacle for every kind of possibility. The idea of the origins of painting lurks in this work. An imaginary territory to be marked out, this blank canvas evokes the "future" of the painting, but also toys with all the connotations connected with the bed as a mundane, everyday item of furniture.

The bed is the place of intimacy par excellence. A place of dreams, of frolics, of rest, of agony, of birth. In this case, it is not usable, because it is installed vertically, but that only makes it all the more symbolic. Kounellis talks to us about practical life experience, but he also addresses mental, affective, political and cultural references.

Whatever we think about this notion of a white sheet, the Shroud of Christ conserved in Turin, the bed of the refugee, the sick person, the death bed, ..., we can but be struck by the false innocence of this white surface. Innocuous at first sight, it becomes more troubling due to its ghostly quality (probably also due to the combination of linen and steel).

Although the bed is an intimate space, the canvas may be seen as a place of exteriorisation, of communication. Kounellis is able to combine these two extremes and produce a work with a powerful presence using commonplace materials: steel sheet, metal bed and linen fabric.

This silent work is left open to contemplation, and gives rise to various interpretations, none of which will be assisted by the title since, as is his wont, he has not given this work a title.

Senza titolo (Catrame II)

2007

Steel, metallic bed, linen, painting

200 x 180 x 45 cm



BIOGRAPHY

Born in Pireas (Greece), 1936

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2010

Jannis Kounellis. Freedom or death – La libertà o morte, Heart Hering Museum of Contemporary Art, Hering (Denmark)

2009

Matadero, Madrid (Spain)

Jannis Kounellis, Alfonso Artiaco, Napoli (Italy)

2008

Jannis Kounellis: The Gospel According to Thomas, Kewenig Galerie, Köln (Germany)

2007

Catrame, Galerie Lelong, Paris (France)

Cheim & Read Gallery, New York (USA)

2006

Jannis Kounellis. Atto Unico, La Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro, Milano (Italy)

Where Are We Going? Opere scelte dalla Collezione Francois Pinault, Palazzo Grassi, Venezia (Italy)

2005

Italian Art 1950-1970. Masterpieces from the Farnesina Collection, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi (India)

Arte Povera, Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Toyota (Japan)

2004

Kounellis in Sarajevo, Ars Aevi Forum, Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina)

National Museum of Contemporary Art, Athina (Greece)

2003

Kounellis, Galleria Christian Stein, Milano (Italy)

2002

Senza Titolo..., Hallen für Neue Kunst, Schaffhausen (Switzerland)

Jannis Kounellis, Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Gent (Belgium)

2001

Jannis Kounellis. Bilder 1958-1968. Objekte 1968-2000, Galerie Karsten Greve, Köln (Germany)

2000

Museo Nacional de Belas Artes, Buenos Aires (Argentina)

1999

Jannis Kounellis. Il Sarcofago degli Sposi, Osterreichisches Museum für angewandte Kunst, Wien (Austria)

1944

Kounellis, Galerie Lelong, Paris (France)

1993

No and no, but, after all yes, why not, Marian Goodman Gallery, New York (USA)

1990

Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London (UK)

1989

Donald Young Gallery, Chicago (USA)

Galerie Lelong, Paris (France)

1988

Castello di Rivoli, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rivoli (Italy)

1987

Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montreal (Canada)

1985

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1982

Whitechapel Art Gallery, London (UK)

1981

Stedelijk Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven (Netherlands)

1980

ARC/Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris (France)

1972

Sonnabend Gallery, New York (USA)

1960

Galleria La Tartaruga, Roma (Italy)