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Roe Ethridge and Zin Taylor
present
The Ceremony and The Spirit

EN

16 November 2012 – 26 January 2013

Roe Ethridge is known for his photographic work, which exists both in the fashion and the contemporary art scene. Although he works mostly on commissions, the dynamics of the demand have never kept Ethridge from infusing each shoot with a personal and rich language. His images avoid being subordinate to the commission and they become, instead, the terrain for a peculiar role-play between the commissioner, the client and the subject. His work is often described as a new take on landscape and still-life photography, and Ethridge, playfully exploring these traditional genres, adopts an approach that seems to complicate both the status and the source of the image. His medium is photography, but he develops his images in such a way that they seem like a display for the sculptural, be it the object, space or the body.

Zin Taylor could be introduced as a narrator of forms, one who uses a diverse range of mediums, including sculptural installations, drawing, animation, writing or story telling. His practice investigates subjects through their shape, gesture and materiality – in sum, through their sculptural behaviour. In his work, the physical status of a thing often becomes a space, one that not only hosts narrative prospects, but also directs and reconsiders the psychological life of the thing in question.

Treating every element – or thing – as a potential interlocutor, Zin Taylor opens up a conversation between and with items to which/whom no word is usually given.

It is certainly surprising to see what a thing actually has to say when it is allowed to express something beyond its functionality, beyond its construction and material aspect.

Although these two artists move in very different areas, there is a commonly shared core to their work: both Ethridge and Taylor elaborate a pool of information within their oeuvre.

The project Roe Ethridge and Zin Taylor developed for La Loge brings their languages into play, of course, but they also add another element to the discussion, namely: the Temple of La Loge. The result is a triangular relationship in which the artists and the building become at once one another's client and commissioner.

The Ceremony and The Spirit, the result of an encounter between two practices, came gradually into being through a conversation.

Developing a language of collaboration was in fact a necessary prerequisite for this project; the back and forth was essential to establishing what one could do, or would want to do. Aware of their specificities and qualities, Ethridge and Taylor treated their respective practices as a skill-set that could be put to specific use.

Taylor made ceremonial objects that would operate as propositional forms. Ethridge then took up the series of tools, props and ornaments and worked them into a visual representation that captured the spirit of the objects.

This simple relationship acted as a working metaphor for how they dealt with the space, how they went about showing the way information works within a specific series of dialogues, the way things grow and change when they are used.

Overall, a choreography – of influence, opinion, and production – was created to make something that can be 'seen'.

The artists relied on mass marketing means (vinyl, posters, brochures, display systems and printed fabric) to establish a visual campaign for the content.

It is, in a sense, quite absurd – there is no beginning. What we have in the space is a lot of dialogue that eventually materialised into a composition.

Talking around the subject, but the subject is the talk ...

The ceremony of their collaboration clears up and renegotiates the identity and the spirit of La Loge: that of a building coated in numerous layers of history, symbols and uses.

Roe Ethridge (b. 1969, Miami, USA, lives and works in New York.
Zin Taylor (b. 1978, Calgary, Canada, lives and works in Brussels.

Limited edition

Roe Ethridge & Zin Taylor
The Ceremony and The Spirit, 2012
Framed print
Ed. of 10

On the occasion of this exhibition, a limited edition of 10 framed posters is available for sale. For more information, contact the reception desk.

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