

## VERTICALITY



*Lu Chao, Balance No.3, 2018*

### 'VERTICALITY'

20 July – 22 September 2018

Opening reception: Thursday 19 July 2018

6.30–8.30pm

rosenfeld porcini is proud to announce its forthcoming themed exhibition entitled Verticality which will feature works by Roberto Almagno, Enrique Brinkmann, Lu Chao, Leonardo Drew, Herbert Golser, Riccardo Guarneri, Naoya Inose, Marijke Keyser, Robert Muntean, Antonio Riello, Nicola Samorì, José Santos III, Raina Schoretsaniti, Levi van Veluw, Veronica Vasquez and Uthman Wahaab.

If one reflects on the selection process of art history which evolves over decades and even centuries, we can see that Horizontality gradually morphs into Verticality. Only those artists who survive the sand in the hourglass will become part of the pantheon and be remembered centuries on.

The aim will be to approach a basic dichotomy such as Verticality/Horizontality from both a visual and textual perspective. Rather than display artists who utilise written text as a way to impart didactic information, there will, instead, be a series of talks in the gallery during the duration of the exhibition.

A vertical power structure seen against the weakness of a horizontally inspired democracy where many contrasting voices can be heard has great contemporary relevance with the current infatuation with 'populism'. Our modern cities are dominated by vertical structures which have been constructed out of necessity, as horizontal space in our crowded urban environments has become so scarce. Yet has the quality from both an aesthetic and utilitarian standpoint been improved? "Monogamy" has dominated two of the great Western religions even though contemporary life has increasingly called into question this model. These three themes will be explored in the talks.

Verticality shall feature pieces by nine sculptors ranging from Roberto Almagno's gravity defying abstract wooden work to Nicola Samorì's five metre figurative creation which manages to straddle both contemporary art yet also draws on the extraordinary tradition of African totemic sculpture. Raina Schoretsaniti also sculpts her formal structure with wood but then covers it with a rich deep red material giving it an unexpected sensuality. Levi van Veluw uses the same material and draws on both Arabic tradition and his continuing desire to create an alternative universe. Leonardo's Drew's large scale paper installation embraces a large array of objects all made from cast paper, whilst Jose Santos III has created a large Corinthian column fashioned from an eclectic collection of elements all of which evoke a treasure trove of memories. Veronica Vasquez's iron structure contains numerous found objects, often gathered from her home or studio in Uruguay, which create a highly intimate and poetic view into her private world. Lastly, Antonio Riello's complex sculptural installation features a variety of glass urns of varying designs; each containing the ashes of a burnt books belonging to an imaginary Library of Alessandria, arranged in a subjective order of importance.

American artist, Marijke Keyser, shall present a site-specific sound installation in the courtyard of the gallery. The visitor will be invited to enter an intimate space, where a series of terracotta and ceramic bells will create an intricate continuous sound piece.

The exhibition will also feature the works of five painters and one draughtsman. Uthman Wahaab's large scale drawing depicting three figures balancing on one another's shoulders will hang in dialogue with Robert Muntean's 'Leone' which features the legendary Italian director standing on the shoulders of an assistant whilst filming.

Enrique Brinkmann's four-piece installation is an example of the artist's preference for a transparent steel mesh as his chosen paint surface as it permits light to seep through yet enables him to paint from both sides. Riccardo Guarneri's poetic works strike an uncanny balance between line, gesture and form. Inose's highly detailed idyllic landscape is destroyed by the concrete masses erected in the midst of a naturalised vision of paradise. Lu Chao's elaborately constructed display of cakes contains what resembles to be a compendium of humanity huddled together, their luggage at the ready for a new but unknown destination. These final two works with their clear political and social overtones lead into the three talks which will create a clear line between the imparting of information by a debate with selected experts in their field, and the emotional charge which can be received from a work of art.



José Santos III, *Permutation*, 2018

\*The talks will be hosted in the gallery on three separate evenings - 10 13 17th September - and are curated by John Gordon, founder of Intelligence Squared and How to Academy. See program below:

Stephen Bayley on 'Architecture: In Praise of Verticality'

Rowan Pelling on 'Love: Monogamy vs Polygamy'

Professor Matthew Goodwin on 'Better a Strong Lion than a Hundred Rats'

The moderator will be Hannah Macinnes (How to Academy)

Participating artists:

Roberto Almagno (b.1954) Aquino, Italy. Lives and works in Rome, Italy  
Enrique Brinkmann (b.1938) Malaga, Spain. Lives and works between Malaga and Madrid, Spain  
Lu Chao (b.1988) Shenyang, China. Lives and works between London and Beijing  
Leonardo Drew (b.1961) Tallahassee, Florida. Lives and works in New York, USA  
Herbert Golser (b.1960) Golling Salzach, Austria. Lives and works in Klein-Pöchlarn, Austria  
Riccardo Guarneri (b.1933) Florence, Italy. Lives and works in Florence, Italy  
José Santos III (b.1970) Manila, Philippines. Lives and works in Manila, Philippines  
Naoya Inose (b.1988) Japan. Lives and works in London, UK  
Marijke Keyser (b.1994) Seattle, USA. Lives and works in London, UK  
Robert Muntean (b.1982) Leoben, Austria. Lives and works in Berlin, Germany  
Antonio Riello (b.1958) Marostica, Italy. Lives and works between Milan, London.  
Nicola Samorì (b.1977) Forlì, Italy. Lives and works in Bagnacavallo, Italy  
Rania Schoretsani (b.1971) Trikala, Greece. Lives and works in Thessalonica, Greece  
Verónica Vázquez (b.1970) Treinta y Tres, Uruguay. Lives and works in Uruguay  
Levi Van Veluw (b.1985) Hoevelaken, Netherlands. Lives and works in Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Uthman Wahaab (b.1983) Ilorin, Kwara, Nigeria. Lives and works in Lagos, Nigeria