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Marc Standing

The Eternal Return

Photo: The Fallacy of Substance (2016)

Fabric, acrylic, embroidery, found objects

60x60cm

The Cat Street Gallery (Hong Kong)

gallery website

(<http://www.thecatstreetgallery.com/>)

Marc Standing: The Eternal Return

Mar 14 - 30

Reception: Mar 17th 6-9pm

The Cat Street Gallery

(<http://www.thecatstreetgallery.com>)

222 Hollywood Road

Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

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'The Eternal Return' presents a strong symbolism of the mask. The sculptural works are inspired by fertility and harvest deities as well as mythological creatures with strong motifs stemming from his interest in the collecting of objects, of cabinets of curiosity, the old world, colonialism, and our mortality. The paintings have a dreamlike surreal quality to them. They are drawing inspiration from both African and Mexican imagery without the means of appropriation.

Born in Zimbabwe, Marc Standing was based in Sydney and now more recently in Hong Kong. His works have been shown extensively throughout Australia and have also been included in prominent Australian art prizes, as well as a commission work for The Groucho Club in London, a nominee for the Sovereign Asian Art Prize, and acquired by Artbank in Australia. His work has also been exhibited in New York, London, Holland, Hong Kong, South Africa and Zimbabwe.



"Wildings" (2015) 100 x 100 cm Oil on canvas

FAi: When did you realize you wanted to be an artist?

Marc Standing: Since I was around five years old I always entertained myself with crayons, pencils and paper. This led to art classes at school as well as extra art lessons on Friday afternoons when I went to high school, and finally art school. Painting and drawing has always been an innate part of me. I have never thought of any other career path than to be an artist.



"The Celestials" (2015) 150 x 180 cm Oil on canvas



"Figurine 11" (2016) 16 x 45 cm Mixed Media sculpture

FAi: What is your greatest achievement?

Marc Standing: I think the fact that I am still a practicing artist is an achievement within itself! It certainly is not the easiest path to take. It's constantly uncertain yet so fulfilling.

FAi: Who are your influences?

Marc Standing: As a painter Francis Bacon and Marlene Dumas were early strong influences. Over time I have also been drawn to outsider art and traditional crafts. I not only paint but also work with a wide variety of mediums such as sculpture, fabrics, embroidery and paper.

FAi: Your work contains tribal elements and themes. Have you developed strong bonds with tribal people and have they seen your art work?

Marc Standing: These tribal elements and themes in my work stem from having been born in Africa. I only left the continent when I was about 25 years old so my roots and influences are still very much based in having been brought up there. Once Africa is in your blood it never leaves you. It is an extraordinary continent. My practice is very much about identity, displacement and the repercussions regarding colonialism and its onslaught. I am also taken by the idea that artists are today's shamans. What we do is produce magic, offer an alternative reality and at other times hold up a mirror projecting the world we live in. In 2014 I spent 3 months in Mexico where I worked with a traditional paper mache artist. I am fascinated in exploring traditional craft techniques from different cultures, which I can then incorporate into my own practice without the means of appropriation and disrespect.

FAi: What was the extent of your art education? Who were your mentors?

Marc Standing: I did graduate from art school from the University of Cape Town in South Africa, although I would have to say that my true mentor was Helen Lieros in Zimbabwe. She is an artist and legend in her own right and would open up her studio to students to come and paint. She never told you what to do but had this amazing studio full of objects, like a cabinet of curiosities. It was an inspiring and untraditional way to learn. The imagination could go wild and you did exactly what you wanted to do.

FAi: What is the greatest challenge you have faced?

Marc Standing: Perhaps having to leave Africa was one of the hardest things to do. Politically and economically Zimbabwe fell apart. I was there at the time and it was very sad to see.

FAi: What are your plans for the future?

Marc Standing: I am taking part in Art Central with Anita Beckers Gallery and am busy preparing a solo exhibition for Anna Pappas Gallery in Melbourne for September.