

Untitled Miami

29.11 – 4.12.2016

Samples of the Liquid Book
solo show by Nemanja Nikolic

Conceptually and formally, the practice of Nemanja Nikolic is connected to the medium of drawing, painting and animation. The artist's specific approach is partly linked to his fascination with the seventh art, which can be seen in most of his works. His first series were marked by the intensive experimentation with the expressive potential of classical drawing which in the same time drew him into more complex visualizations inspired by the language of moving image.

His recent series of paintings open up a new field of artistic challenges. They stand between abstract and narrative. The references to cinema, art history, pop culture and mass media are now contemplated using a different method, by deconstructing, breaking down and visually analyzing the relationships of color and form, sensory perception and intuition. The artist's choice of abstract, stylized and geometrical forms as new motifs is inspired by early abstract and experimental films, such as "Rhythmus 21" by Hans Richter, by the first experiments with moving image such as "Anemic cinema" by Marcel Duchamp or more recent experiments such as the intro of "Psycho" by Hitchcock.. Nevertheless the stripes paintings ("Untitled") are semi abstract. They refer to film narrative presented through colors and stripes - like doing cinema editing with only colors and giving a sense of time and rhythm without sound or characters. But they have to be read as a narration. The Vertigo series are very similar, only the artist uses spiral form to present how cinema 'swallow us' while observing it.

In the third series (Untitled"), appear some characters who are connected with the artist's fascination as a child for scarecrow in the fields. Both scaring and comic, those figures testimony the creativity of farmers, using a bucket for water instead of head, broom instead of hands, old rake instead of legs – like human figures made from different parts of still life. Nikolic started then drawing his figures using various geometrical elements that can be connected with mechanical or still life. Their stylization refer to the Bauhaus, like Paul Klee's drawings.

Such approach of painting was qualified by the art critic Velimir Popović as "samples of the Liquid Book", referring to that series of experimental digital books published under the conditions of both open editing and free content.

Born in 1987 in Serbia, Nemanja Nikolic is graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade, department of painting and is currently a student of doctoral art studies at the same faculty. Since 2007 his works were exhibited on numerous solo and group shows in Serbia and abroad as well as festivals. He is the founder of U10 Art Space, an entirely artist-run contemporary art space in Belgrade that was invited at LISTE, Basel, and Parallel in Vienna in 2015. Famous for his video animations made of drawings, that were shown by the Drawing Center in New York and at October Salon in Belgrade (curated by David Elliott), he is currently exhibited at the KunstlerHaus in Wien, Austria and soon at The Caixa Forum in Barcelona and in Madrid ("Cinema and Painting" curated by Dominique Païni). He won several awards, such as Award for drawing from Vladimir Velickovic Fund, special award for mural and wall installation from Raiffeisen Bank and Gallery 12HUB and Award for an exceptional creative innovation from Milos Bajic Fund. His works figure in many private and public collections such as ABN AMRO collection, Amsterdam NL, Raiffensen bank, Belgrade, Telenor collection and Sumatovacka Center for art collection, Belgrade, Cloud Art Space Foundation, Seoul, Korea.

He is represented by Galerie Dix9 Hélène Lacharmoise based in Paris.