

GALERIE DIX9 Hélène Lacharmoise

Mehdi-Georges Lahlou

A NICE TIME BY THE ROTONDES

November 22 - December 20, 2014

Extension till January 17, 2015



Third solo exhibition by Mehdi-Georges Lahlou at Galerie Dix9, “A nice time along the Rotondes” proves to be a further step in the research of the Franco-Moroccan artist. With new cultural markers and always reinterpreted aesthetics, he questions the notion of archive, whether personal document, legendary iconography, or fantasy of a reinvented archeology. Always eager to divert things, Mehdi-Georges Lahlou attempts to reconstruct forms or relics who doubt their real historical roots, giving them a temporal and imagined uncertainty, in a way which is full of humor and ambiguity, as always, in his artistic approach.

Searching deeper in his origins, Mehdi-Georges Lahlou reveals the young man who was his father at the time he used to go at the Rotondes bar in the city Les Sables d'Olonne in France (*Casa Pepe*, photo series, 2012-2014). Is it a real archive or a montage? The doubt remains as the resemblance between father and son are so evident.

More prosaically, Mehdi-Georges Lahlou uses couscous as a vehicle of cultural identity. He takes it as a structural element of self-portraits which are often close to the absurd. He even gives it a temporal dimension in his *“Hourglasses, Heads”*. Furthermore the artist invests couscous with an architectural dimension and build fictional archaeological reliefs. In a kind of fantasy museum full of fake archives, as a bust of Nefertiti (*I used to be Nefertiti*), the artist proposes to transform the traditional acquisition of knowledge by learning History through odors (*Ardoises*).

"By frictional reality and functional fantasy, ambiguity puts us to face the unknown of our beliefs"
(Mehdi-Georges Lahlou)



I used to be Nefertiti, 2014

plaster, gessonite, polystyrene, paint
60 X 44 X 23 cm
unique



Hourglasses, Head's, 2014

glas, couscous
47 x 23 x 18 cm
Edition de 3 + 1 AP





Ardoise, 2014

Cedar wood
circa 50 X 25 cm each
unique



Tawl, mausolée fragment, 2014

Circa 40 x 32 cm et 38 x 35 cm
Couscous and mixed materials
unique



Fontaine, 2013

wood, water, motor, paraffine, gold leaves
circa 120 cm diameter

Version 3/3



Casa Pepe, Les Sables d'Olonne, 2013 - 2014

original silver print 1980

18 framed photographs , 24 x 30 cm each frame

unique