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.

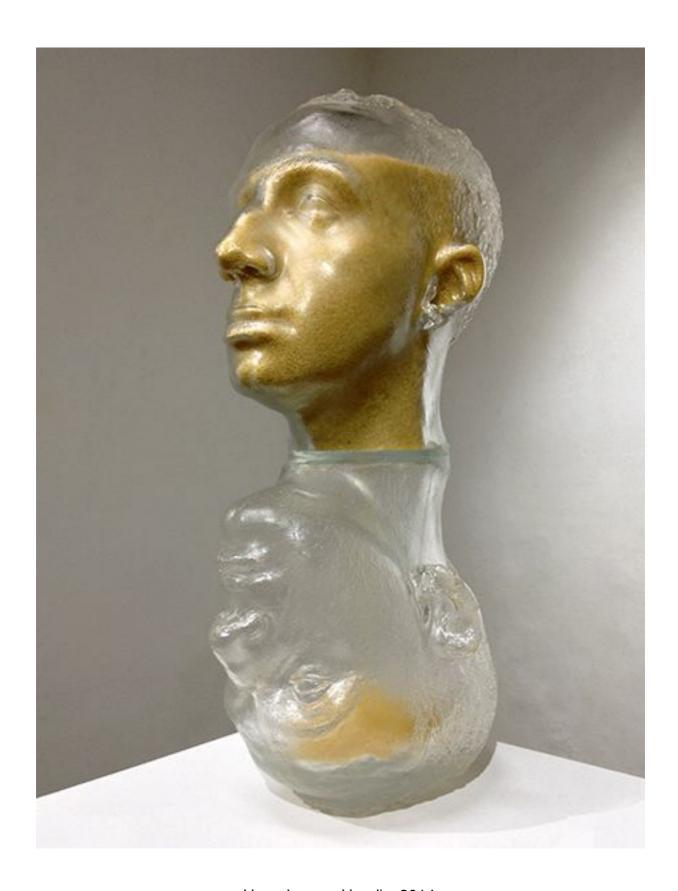
More prosaically, Mehdi-Georges Lahlou uses couscous as a vehicle of cultural identity. He takes it as a structural element of self-portraits which are often close to the absurd. He even gives it a temporal dimension in his "Hourglasses, Heads". Furthermore the artist invests couscous with an architectural 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, gesmonite, 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



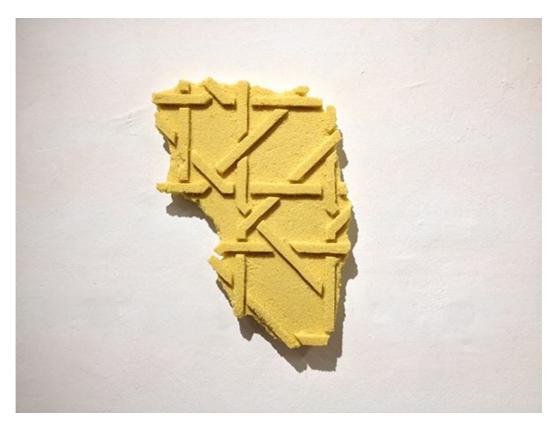




Ardoise, 2014

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 photographies , 24 x 30 cm each frame unique