

PRESS RELEASE

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***From Earth and Metal: Contemporary Sculpture* exhibition featuring Bernar Venet, Pablo Reinoso, Jedd Novatt, Armen Agop and Yves Dana**

Singapore, February 2014 – Art Plural Gallery presents *From Earth and Metal: Contemporary Sculpture*, a group sculpture exhibition featuring renowned international artists Bernar Venet, Pablo Reinoso, Jedd Novatt, Armen Agop and Yves Dana. The exhibition runs from **5 March – 16 May 2015** at Art Plural Gallery.

From Earth and Metal: Contemporary Sculpture celebrates the power of sculpture to re-define our environment. Inert in their existence yet dynamic in form, the artists masterfully seize natural and industrial materials such as bronze, steel, wood and stone to achieve profound connections between man, matter and metaphysics.

The exhibition discovers the potential of ordinary mediums beyond their industrial purposes, re-imagined as demonstrations of internal power and its projected effect on external space. Metals such as steel and bronze are wrought into astonishing forms, such as the confident and calculated lines drawn by French artist Bernar Venet's 'collapsed' layers of steel arcs or American artist Jedd Novatt's abstracted cubic structures that slice through the air in suspended motion. Mathematically measured and constantly at the mercy of gravity, Venet and Novatt's works exploit the rigidity of their metals in order to architecturally construct the freedom of space around them. Inverting the causal relationship between artistic creation and form, the artists employ abstraction in order to look beyond the structures and towards the creation, or indeed re-creation, of our environment, while at the same time re-defining the material structures as independently valuable, auto-referential beings.



Pablo Reinoso, *Spider Bench*, 2011, painted Steel, 577 x 220 x 95 cm, Edition of 8 + 4AP

The notion of re-creation and re-definition is also explored by French-Argentinian artist Pablo Reinoso, as he challenges expectations of functionality with forms that push the material's boundaries. Poetic in its execution, the meandering tendrils of Reinoso's iconic steel *Spider Bench* display the perversion of a conservative form, while at the same time maintaining the functional core of the bench. As opposed to the work of Venet, Reinoso's structures are defined

ART PLURAL GALLERY

by its existence at the periphery of function, perhaps meaningless when pushed too far, or indeed when not pushed enough.

“My bench works as a bench from one end to another, but at the edges it becomes free of this function. At the beginning, I thought: ‘Oh, I made a mistake.’ People began asking if it’s a bench or an art piece. To which I just said ‘I play with the boundaries.’” - Pablo Reinoso

From earth are the swelling depths of Egyptian-Armenian artist Armen Agop’s round-bellied granite sculptures, with futuristic UFO-like forms that converse with the stoic rawness of Yves Dana’s stone statues, erected as relics of the ancient past. The depth of stone allows Agop and Dana to explore the most sincere of themes, drawing upon their respective nostalgia for their shared Egyptian heritage and commenting on the enduring values of their culture’s art through time. Discovering the abilities of the ancient medium, Agop and Dana draw out subtle tensions that already exist within the stone in order to respond to modern expectations of its capabilities. Dana exposes its inherent qualities, creating a variety of raw forms that conform to the friability, durability and brittleness of the chosen stone. Meanwhile, Agop’s mastery over his preferred material, black granite, permits him to push the stone’s limits and address the opportunities of the future.



Yves Dana, *Chaddai*, 2006, Noir de Belgique, 102 x 14 x 7 cm

“Sculptures have always been one of my favourite art forms. They are relics of today’s world that live with you, going beyond their former existence as simple stone or metal and taking on a new life. We are pleased to present a celebration of the most powerful works of sculpture today.” – Frédéric de Senarclens, Founder and Director of Art Plural Gallery

Artist Biographies

Bernar Venet (born 1941)

French artist Bernar Venet's works are acquired by the most prestigious public collections, including the Guggenheim Museum, NY; Museum of Contemporary Art, CA; and Musée national d'Art moderne, Paris. On top of numerous solo and group exhibitions, public and private commissions, he has exhibited in Strandverket, Sweden (2014), the Château de Versailles, France (2011), the Venice Biennale, Italy (1978) and at *Documenta VI*, Kassel, Germany (1977). A venerated master of his field, Venet has received some of the world's most coveted awards and honours. Among these are a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts, Washington D.C., and the Grand Prix des Arts de la Ville de Paris. In 1996 he was awarded the title of Commandeur dans l'ordre des Arts et Lettres by the Minister of Culture in France, and in 2005, the honour of Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur, France's highest decoration.

Jedd Novatt (born 1958)

Born in France in 1958, Jedd Novatt graduated from Lacoste School of the Arts in France and from Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York. His exhibitions include Pérez Art Museum, Miami, USA; Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, USA; Brown Harts Garden, Westminster Council City of Sculpture Festival, London, UK; La Piscine, Musée d'Art et d'Industrie André Diligent, Roubaix, France; Sotheby's at Chatsworth, Chatsworth, UK; Museum of Art, Boca Raton, Florida, USA. His work is part of many private and public international collections such as City of Bilbao, Spain; Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, USA; Holding Capital Group, New York, USA; Melville Industrial Associates, Melville, USA; MIT-List Visual Arts Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA; Oklahoma Heritage Center, Oklahoma City, USA; Palmer Museum of Art, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, USA, Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), Miami, USA.

Pablo Reinoso (born 1955)

Pablo Reinoso was born in Argentina in 1955. He studied architecture at the University of Buenos Aires. Throughout his life, Reinoso conducted his exploration through the principles that oppose one another in their actions. On one side, his portfolio features numerous design projects for the packaging, furniture, interiors and luxury consumer goods world and on the other, the endless quest of the intangible boundaries of the soul through art, and think tanks. Pablo Reinoso's works of Art and Design are included in international exhibitions such as the Biennale of Venice and Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial, Japan, Art Basel, Miami Basel, FIAC, Paris and ARCO, Madrid. Public collections around the world include: Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo; Mamba, Buenos Aires; Macro, Rosario; Société des Amis du MNAM; Fonds National d'Art Contemporain, Paris, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris. Solo shows at the Museo de Arte Latinoamericano (Malba), Buenos Aires, Museu de Arte Moderna da Bahia (MAM), Brazil. Group shows in: Centre Pompidou, Paris, Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid, Museum of Art and Design (Mad), New York, to name a few. Pablo Reinoso lives and works in Paris.

Armen Agop (born 1969)

Armen Agop was born in Cairo of Armenian descent in 1969. He graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts from Helwan University, Cairo in 1992. Agop received an Assistant Research Scholarship at the Faculty of Fine Arts. In 1998, he won the Sculpture prize at the Autumn Salon, Cairo Egypt. His national recognition was confirmed in 2000 upon receiving the Prix de Rome. After moving to Italy, his works were displayed in the National Gallery of Modern Art. His sculptures can be seen at: the Egyptian Academy in Rome, the Accademia Nazionale di San Luca, Rome, and the Centro Culturale L. Russo in Pietrasanta, Italy. His international exhibitions include Florida, China, Norway, Spain, Holland and Denmark. He participated in the international sculpture Biennale in 2003 in Japan. His works are also presented in the Egyptian Modern Art Museum, Egypt, Aswan Open Air Museum, Aswan, Open Air Museum of St. Martin

ART PLURAL GALLERY

Park, Comblain-au-pont, Belgium, and Coral Springs Museum of Art in Florida, USA. Agop's latest exhibition was held at the 4th Beijing International Art Biennale 2010, China. The artist presently lives and works in Italy.

Yves Dana (born 1959)

Yves Dana was born on the 25th of June 1959 in Alexandria, Egypt. He earned a BA in Sociology at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland and a MFA from l'Ecole des Beaux Arts of Geneva in 1983. A world-renowned sculptor, Dana's monumental art pieces grace public spaces in the USA, France, Greece, Switzerland and Japan. His works have also found their way into important museums and gallery exhibitions including the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Musée Jenisch in Vevey, Jan Krugier Gallery in New York, Galerie Krugier-Ditesheim in Geneva and several private collections.

About Art Plural Gallery

Founded by Swiss art dealer Frédéric de Senarclens in May 2011, Art Plural Gallery is a unique contemporary art gallery located in the heart of Singapore's cultural district. The gallery encompasses an expansive 12,000 square feet spread across 4 levels of exhibition space, housed within an Art Deco heritage building. In 2013, Art Plural Gallery was named by Blouin Artinfo as one of the Best New Galleries in the World.

Exhibition Details:

From Earth and Metal: Contemporary Sculpture

5 March to 16 May 2015

38 Armenian Street
179942 Singapore
T +65 6636 8360

Opening hours from 11 am to 7 pm.
Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.

For more information, please contact:

Carole de Senarclens

Director

T: +65 6636 8360

M: +65 9002 3638

carole@artpluralgallery.com

press@artpluralgallery.com

Gillian de Boer

Communications Executive

T: +65 6636 8360

gillian@artpluralgallery.com

www.artpluralgallery.com

www.facebook.com/artpluralgallery