

CLOSING THE CIRCLE ...

Jonathan Monk's solo exhibition at Dvir Gallery / Brussels consists of an eclectic compilation of old and recent works. Most of them offer Monk's typical playful look on important works of conceptual and minimal art. Using intelligent strategies, the artist replays, remasters, decontextualises and questions iconic art pieces. He plays with references to works by Kippenberger, Alighiero e Boetti, Warhol or Jeff Koons.

The 'Exhibit Model Details with Additional Information' are installation views of former exhibitions. Three-dimensional artwork editions and everyday objects belonging to popular culture are added to the photographic support, making a new collage/composition opening up for new interpretations. Several time periods and sensations are presented simultaneously and overlap each other. According to the artist: 'This particular series of works does (kind of) feed from itself. Images of them installed may even become wallpaper within the Exhibit Model series and they potentially become part of this series again. Vanishing into the documentation of documentation.'

I am hoping it becomes an endless circle.'

When asked about his particular relation with John Baldessari, Monk confessed he considers Baldessari as a kind of 'godfather' figure that had a great influence on his art making. In Monk's opinion, Baldessari is an artist who managed to 'create a perfect collaboration between serious comedy and funny conceptualism - a kind of American Monty Python....'

Jonathan Monk's exhibition can be understood as a serious, yet funny narration, invented by a subversive storyteller who likes to invite the viewer to look and think twice. This is the case of the two small pieces referring directly to the exhibition's title: cutout printed copies of drawings made by the artist's daughter that got lost between the pages of Walther König's edition 'A Conversation between Hans Ulrich Obrist and John Baldessari' (2010). Children's creations absorbed in a high standard art publication.

Jonathan Monk likes to often refer to Alighiero e Boetti as 'an artist who made conceptual art more human'. Like him Jonathan Monk is looking for the poetic power hidden in everyday objects.

Erich Weiss, curator