

VALENTINA BONOMO ROMA

PRESENTS

ANTONIS DONEF

"War, Fishing, Sex"

Opening Reception: Friday 19 March from 18 to 21 at via del portico d'Ottavia 13

Duration of show: 19 March to 30 April

Gallery Hours: 11.00 to 13.00 and 15.00 to 19.00 Tuesday through Saturday

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On Friday 19 March the gallery Valentina Bonomo Roma, on via del portico d'Ottavia 13, will inaugurate the personal show of Antonis Donef.

The diverse traditional creative methods used by the artist – a confrontation with superficial white - Donef constructs on canvas made entirely of words and extracts of pages taken from old encyclopedias.

Above this mosaic, rich in tonalities, the artist intervenes with the same insolence of a child who, in the urgency to create images, without hesitation, vandalizes a work of art without taking into account whether it is an original or simply a reproduction.

Donef brings these texts back to life, almost in disuse, through a new abstract language that resembles hieroglyphics.

The starting point of his work commences with the accumulation of a huge number of old encyclopedias found in second-hand bookstores in Athens, followed by a meticulous selection of pages which the artist finds most appropriate and which he then uses to create the background of his work. The pages, turned yellow with time, are glued to the canvas in a precise and balanced composition.

The final phase is the most critical since it is seen in comparison with the surface, which the artist creates and on which he leaves his mark. It is an arduous process that requires systematic work.

In infancy our instinct and iconoclastic imagination is expressed spontaneously on the pages of our school books. In the same way, at the center of Donef's work, creative impulse is joined with information. It becomes a creation, a sort of explosive dialogue that seeks to represent his transformation through the transaction of the identity of the discovered text.

The circular process is continued – that is, the process of the encyclopedia according to Barthes – it is personalized and acquires identity in the moment in which it is broken down. At the end, the work created by Donef is an explosion in the galaxy of our knowledge, a vital impulse of systematic thought.

Antonis Donef was born in 1978. He lives and works in Athens. Donef graduated from the Academy of the Arts in Athens in 2004. In 2010 he won the *Art House Shanghai Prize* – for a foundation which made reference to the gallery owner Magda Danysz – at the *Arte Fiera*, in collaboration with the Shanghai review *ShContemporary*, presented in the gallery Kalfayan in Athens.