

VALENTINA **BONOMO** ROMA

STEPHAN BALKENHOL

Sunday, November, 25th, 2012 - February, 20th, 2013

COMUNICATO STAMPA

Valentina Bonomo Roma is pleased to announce the exhibition of new works of the German artist **Stephan Balkenhol**.

Balkenhol is his second solo exhibition in the Portico d'Ottavia. In Rome, he realized in 2010 an important project in the Roman Forum, a male torso in wood 5 meters high, entitled 'More and more'.

Stephan Balkenhol is one of the leading contemporary sculptors, since twenty years his wooden sculptures are confronted with everyday men and women and, while inspired by the antique statuary, these sculptures deviate from the classical ideals of beauty. The figures are sculpted with precision out of a single piece of wood and then are painted. The materiality of the wood is vivid and the gestures of the sculptor remain visible, highlighting the vitality of the surface. The subjects do not aspire to the heroic, but rather depict with irony and sobriety the 'normal' man in our society, the artist observes the street and gives in photographs. The human figures have an enigmatic and neutral expression, that does not show neither feelings nor mysteries, but holds the mystery.

His sculptures, despite retrieve a practice of medieval work, combine two trends of contemporary art diametrically opposed: the essentiality of minimalist tradition and the immediacy of the gesture.

Born in Fritzlar (Hessen) in Germany in 1957, Stephan Balkenhol studied at the Hamburg's Academy as a student of the German minimalist sculptor Ulrich Rückriem. Here he discovered his predilection for the wood and his vocation for "re-inventing the figure." His works are in the collections of some of the most prestigious museums of the world, including the Hirschhorn Museum and the Sculpture Garden in Washington, the Tate Gallery in London, the Museum fur Moderne Kunst in Frankfurt and the Nationalgalerie in Berlin.

His sculptures were also exhibited in solo exhibitions in European and American museums, including, recently, the museum of Grenoble (2010), the museum Deichtorhallen in Hamburg (2008/09), the Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, the Museum der Moderne in Salzburg (2006/07), the Pavilion of Contemporary Art in Milan in 2007, the National Museum of Art Osaka (2005) and the Sprengel Museum in Hanover (2003). In the summer of 2011, there was a solo exhibition during the salzburg festival in Salzburg.

For more informations:

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