

Stephan Balkenhol

15 October – 15 May 2008

PRESS RELEASE

On Friday 28 March at 18.00 at via del Portico d'Ottavia 13, the first personal show in Rome of Stephan Balkenhol will be inaugurated: after his retrospective at Pac in Milan, the sculptor presents works realized specifically for the space Valentina Bonomo Roma.

The German artist once again uses the media of figurative sculpture, his true and real vocation of over 20 years. In wood, carved from a single trunk and vivified with color, his quotidian heroes take form: common men and women, that outside of every myth and far from the ideals of classic beauty, are confronted with a reality more "normal" without these debase behaviors and values; in this way his creations appear either over or under-proportioned on pedestals, in a way sort of recounting the boldness of communal life. Severe and immobile, the works of Stephan Balkenhol appear as erratic icons of a present imperceptibility.

Stephan Balkenhol was born in Fritzlar (Hessen) in Germany in 1975.

After ending his studies at the Academy of Hamburg as a pupil of the German minimalist sculptor Ulrich Rückriem, Balkenhol perceived a clear mode of his inclinations by using wood as a means of conjugating his "necessity" to reinterpret the human figure.

Since 1984 the artist has been exhibiting in galleries and museums: the Kunsthalle of Basil in 1988, the Kunsthalle of Hamburg in 1991, the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin in 1991, the Witte Center for the Arts in Rotterdam in 1992, the Musee d'Art Conemporain in Rochechouart in France and the National Gallery of Berlin in 1994, the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington in 1995, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in 1996, the Arts Club of Chicago in 1998, the Galleria Civica d'Arte Contemporanea of Trento in 1999, the Centro Galego de Arte Contemporanea in Santiago de Compostela in 2001, and the Sprengel Museum of Hannover in 2003, the National Museum of Art in Osaka in 2005, the Kunsthalle di Baden-Baden in 2006 and the Museum der Moderne in Salzburg in 2007.

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