

MOSTYN

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collezione *m̄*aramotti

Evgeny Antufiev

Organic resistance: body and knife - crossing the border

Galleries 4 & 5

Exhibition Dates: 18 November 2017 - 18 February 2018

Exhibition Preview Evening: Friday 17 November 2016 from 6.30pm

MOSTYN, Wales UK is pleased to announce the first UK solo exhibition by Russian born artist, Evgeny Antufiev.

The exhibition '*Organic resistance: body and knife - crossing the border*' presents artefacts, ideas and stories collected from, or imagined by, local and mythological cultures from different parts of the world.

Inspired by the traces of shamanic practice in the Siberian region of Tuva, where he was raised, Antufiev slowly crafts his own mythologies through a semi-anthropological approach to exhibition making, mixed with a degree of kitsch aesthetic. Antufiev combines imagination with aspects of Russian and international cultures, personal stories, and a skilled appreciation for the effect on human culture of different materials such as stone, bone, wood, amber and bronze. The resulting worlds are suspended between nature and culture, legends and facts, found and fictional objects.

Antufiev introduces pieces of contemporary art that complement, question or subvert the ideas explored through the legend-driven anthropological exhibits. He skilfully weaves minimal anecdotes and private personal stories with the overall exhibition narrative, making them part of the legend-building process. His interest ranges from folk embroidery, made on vintage fabrics taken from his mother's chest, to natural history studies and specimens under glass; from drawings, seemingly childish and clumsy and made in response to familiar situations to elements of Russian culture, scattered around the exhibition space and combined with memories of the local context. Video, textiles, animal bones, photographs and objects form a picture of a semi-utopian world that is almost a synthesis of a new vision - "utopian in nature, but at the same time completely real". (MMOMA, 2015)

MOSTYN's location in North Wales, famous for its rural and mountain landscapes, functions as a fitting backdrop to the artefacts, myths and objects upon which Antufiev's work focuses. These elements of the exhibition could have originated in this geographical area which has been occupied, farmed and exploited for minerals since the Bronze Age.

The exhibition is organised in partnership with Collezione Maramotti in Reggio Emilia (Italy), where the artist had a major survey of his work in 2013 – the first one in Italy. The Maramotti Collection has continued to follow the research of the artist by acquiring new works over the last few years, and this exhibition will be the first time the works will be shown outside Europe.

With the additional support of z2o Sara Zanin, Rome / Emalin, London.

This exhibition has been curated by Alfredo Cramerotti, Director, MOSTYN, and will be presented alongside *Miles of Creativity*, an exhibition curated by Adam Carr, Visual Arts Programme Curator, MOSTYN.

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For press and images please email: lin@mostyn.org

Editor's Notes:

About the Artist

Evgeny Antufiev was born in 1986 in Kyzyl, republic of Tuva (Russia). He lives and works in Moscow. He was recognized in 2009 with a Kandinsky Prize for Young Artist, and has since participated in exhibitions such as *Ostalgia*, New Museum, New York, 2011; *Garden of Eden*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, 2012; *Twelve, wood, dolphin, knife, bowl, mask, crystal, bones and marble – fusion. Exploring materials*, Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia, 2013 and Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow, 2014; *Immortality forever*, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow, 2015; *Eternal Garden* (with priest Martin Rush), Wasserkirche, Manifesta 11, Zurich, 2016.

About MOSTYN

Situated in the North Wales coastal town of Llandudno, MOSTYN is Wales' foremost contemporary gallery and visual arts centre, and a key partner of the PlusTate network of art institutions in the UK. MOSTYN activates people's lives through visual arts and inspires them to form and share new perspectives.

MOSTYN receives financial support from the Arts Council of Wales and Conwy County Borough Council Art Service.

Mostyn Gallery Ltd is a registered charity trading as MOSTYN.

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10.30am – 4.00pm

ADMISSION FREE

