

INTELLIGENCE AND EMOTION IN BALANCE.

Hautala – Kivijärvi – Osipow

Maire Gullichsen and Modernism series

Project Room, 29 May – 5 September 2010

Painters *Jorma Hautala* and *Paul Osipow* and sculptor *Harry Kivijärvi* have for decades been among the greatest luminaries in Finnish art. The latest in the *Maire Gullichsen and Modernism* exhibition series, *INTELLIGENCE AND EMOTION IN BALANCE* has its thematic focus in art that does not aim to create images. The underlying philosophy is that art should refrain from all figurative aspects that refer to things external to itself.

One of the most fundamental qualities of painting is the physicality of the practice and the resultant personal nature of the works. As Jorma Hautala once put it, it takes energy – the motion and touch of the hand – for paint to be transferred onto the canvas, or for the chisel to carve stone into a sculpture. The contact with the viewer is direct and unmediated. Art is a manual craft. The progress of the piece gives the artist a sense of pleasure that is at best also conveyed to the viewer.

Even if the artist does not aim at self-expression, the medium itself emphasises the artist's presence, which highlights the authenticity of the technique. The bodily aspect of the experience is reinforced by the dimensions of the piece, perceived in proportion to the dimensions of the exhibition space and the viewer. This also draws the viewer into the process that dominates the artist's work.

Paul Osipow has exhibited widely, including in *The Guggenheim* in New York. He has also served as commissioner at the *Venice Biennale* and as professor in the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts. Having studied under *Sam Vanni* and *Unto Pusa*, Osipow has throughout his career been open to new ideas. From his initial interest in Pop Art, Osipow moved on to study the problematics of the modern pictorial surface, such as the interaction between space and background, and the opportunities this offered for the artist.

Harry Kivijärvi is one of the rare artists who have mastered the traditional materials and techniques of sculpture as well as the thinking required for the scale of monumental art. A highly distinguished artist, Kivijärvi rose to the awareness of the general public with his *Monument to J.K. Paasikivi*. His contributions are significant in representing Finnish art in many international exhibitions. Kivijärvi embraced abstract art already in the early 1960s. Since then, he has infused the modern vocabulary of forms with influences culled from the architecture and sculpture of archaic cultures. He has works in several prestigious collections in Europe and the USA.

Jorma Hautala has made an outstanding career for himself in the field of Finnish art, both as an artist and as a teacher and honorary professor of art. Hautala aspires to a universal pictorial language, one that should be based on the laws that govern the human system of perception. In his art, Hautala is systematic and sustained, deeply faithful to his own principles. His thinking is characterised by a respect for anonymity and a rejection of the myth of the hero in art.

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