

LUIS ROLDÁN. *Eidola*

Opening Reception: Thursday April 2, 6-9 pm

Exhibition runs through May 16, 2015

Gallery Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 11-6 pm

Henrique Faria Fine Art is pleased to present *Eidola*, Luis Roldán's third exhibition in the gallery and his fifth in New York City. *Eidola*, plural of eidolon, meaning a specter or phantom, or an idealized person, is a presentation of new work by Roldán that includes painting and objects. The title of the exhibition is invoked through Roldán's practice of re-purposing and re-contextualizing found objects, objects that had a previous "life" and function before their reincarnation as *objets d'art*. Mariangela Méndez writes in the exhibition text, "Ruins are crumbles of our material world, abandoned fragments, hollowed out of the divine spirit that once animated them. Images give us hope, that particular hope of accessing the world without limits." The interaction of the paintings and sculptures is meant to represent the cyclic dialogue of life, death and rebirth, of how life informs art and how art, in turn, informs life.

The materials that compose the wooden sculptures were, in fact, originally hat molds. Standing in for the human head, these molds were used to transform felt into pieces of fashion. As styles changed and hats were no longer an essential item of clothing, the molds became obsolete, relics of a different time; but their likeness to the human skull established them as *eidola*. Méndez remarks, "what is really remarkable of the skull as image is the effect it has on recognition. It looks like a figure with something missing; it is at once a body and its ghostly double." Through the act of painting Roldán has vindicated these molds by re-inscribing the marks of creativity upon them.

In response to the enlivened objects, Roldán created paintings that play with light schemes and patterns that move across the wooden pieces. The paintings surround the objects, establishing a dynamic visual relationship built by color and creative intention. Méndez continues, "The sculptures and paintings organized in the exhibition space are fragments that invite us to continue completing, enlarging, augmenting, researching the myriad hypotheses that might justify their existence. But mostly, their purpose is to provoke our imagination, to make us creators of stories and narratives by suggesting an interplay between observation and materialization, surface and volume, void and being, possessions and desires." In this way, the conversation goes back and forth, from the dimensional to the plane, from the figure to the abstract, from the external world to the internal, from part to whole.

Luis Roldán (Cali, Colombia, 1955) studied Art History at the École du Louvre (Paris), engraving at S.W. Hayter (Paris) and Architecture at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Bogotá, Colombia). He has exhibited extensively at institutions internationally. A selection of solo shows include: *Expiación*, Fundación Gilberto Alzate Avendaño, Bogotá (2014); *Presión y flujo*, Galería Casas Riegner, Bogotá (2014); *Mechanical Ventilation. Interactions with Willys de Castro and Other Voices*, Henrique Faria, New York (2013 and 2011); *Transparencias*, Museum of Modern Art, Medellín (2011); *Continua*, Sicardi Gallery, Houston (2007); *Acerca de las estructuras*, Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, San José, Costa Rica (2006) and *Permutantes*, Sala Mendoza, Caracas (2005). Selected group shows include: the First Biennial of Cartagena, 2014; the Tenth Monterrey Biennial, 2012; the 53rd Venice Biennale, Latin America Pavilion, 2009; and *Dibujos*, Museum of Modern Art, Buenos Aires (2004). He has won numerous awards such as the Luis Caballero Award (Bogotá, 2001) and the National Award in Visual Arts (Colombia, 1996). His work is included in important collections such as Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, Museo del Barrio and Deutsche Bank Collection, New York; FEMSA Collection, Monterrey; Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation, Miami and the Museums of Modern Art in Buenos Aires, Bogotá and Medellín. He lives and works both in New York City and Bogotá.

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