

GLADSTONE

Ugo Rondinone explores time, ritual, and the natural world with new bronze sculptures at Gladstone

Gladstone is pleased to present *primordial*, an exhibition of new works by Ugo Rondinone. Within the Brussels gallery space, Rondinone creates another universe with forty-seven sculptures: each form is named after a natural phenomenon and embodied by a bronze fish suspended on wire. These sculptures follow in a series that includes bronze-cast birds (*primitive*, 2011) and horses (*primal*, 2013). Rondinone's three groupings of animals stand in for the world beyond the exhibition space, representing the transience and temporality of the natural world. This menagerie of forms belonging to air, land, and water represents timeless occurrences within the cosmos while demonstrating infinite reincarnations.

The notion of time is fundamental within Rondinone's work, reflected in his concept, process, and materials. The school of fish in *primordial* floats quietly and motionlessly unaffected by time. These forms, with titles such as *the feather*, *the insect*, or *the gravity*, serve as amulets of time suspended in mid-air, and provide a contemplative space where the past and present can coexist. For Rondinone, the process of making art is a ritual, and he commemorates the daily by producing one sculpture a day. Each fish begins in clay and the evidence of Rondinone's working process is preserved in the finished bronze, linking each sculpture to his own lifetime through the encapsulated gestures.

While each of the forty-seven fish is unique, the fish bear a cohesion as they are covered with only Rondinone's fingerprints. This duality, along with contrasts between organic and inorganic, movement and stillness, as well as mass and weightlessness, present a disparity between the exterior and interior.

Over the last decades, Rondinone has created a strikingly diverse body of work exploring conditions of human life and the transience of existence. His paintings range from large Arcadian landscapes to striped or radial gradients named after the dates when the works were completed. Rondinone's sculptures extend from small still-life objects to colossal bluestone figures.

Exhibition Details

primordial

April 20, 2016 – May 28, 2016

Rue du Grand Cerf 12

1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

About Ugo Rondinone

Ugo Rondinone (b. 1964, Brunnen, Switzerland) studied at the Universität für Angewandte Kunst in Vienna before moving to New York in 1997 where he currently lives and works. His work has been the subject of solo presentations at the Centre George Pompidou, Paris (2003); Whitechapel Gallery, London (2006); Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois (2013); Rockbund Art Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2016); Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Roma, Rome (RS13); Carre D'Art, Nimes, France (2016); Berkeley

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Art Museum, California (2017); Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati (2017); Bass Museum of Art, Miami (2017); Belvedere, Vienna (2021); Tamayo Museum, Mexico City (RSRR); Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt (2022); Petit Palais, Paris (2022); Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista di Venezia, Venice (2022); The Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva (2023); Parrish Museum, Water Mill, New York (2023); Städel Museum, Frankfurt (2023); Storm King Art Center, New Windsor, New York (2023); Museum SAN, Wonju, Korea (2024) Kunstmuseum Luzern, Switzerland (2024); Würth Museum, Kunzelsau, Germany (2024); and Aspen Art Museum, Colorado (2024).

About Gladstone Gallery

Gladstone is known for its commitment to artists whose prescient approaches and experimental practices have defined the contours of contemporary art. The gallery has long been an active partner in the cultivation of iconoclastic careers, fostering a roster of artists recognized for their ground-breaking contributions. Headquartered in New York and including outposts in both Brussels and Seoul, Gladstone's impact extends globally, enabling both the presentation of new bodies of work, and an amplification of the international reach of its artists. Alongside its work with contemporary artists, the gallery is steward to the legacies of pivotal historical artists and serves as an advocate for the enduring power of art. Gladstone is led by a team of partners who spearhead its long-term vision and program, building on the values of its founder Barbara Gladstone.

Press Contact

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