

Mario Santizo

El sol es un martillo

Opening 23rd January 2018, 7pm
24th January – 31st March 2018

Prometeogallery di Ida Pisani is pleased to present **Mario Santizo** first solo exhibition in Italy *The sun is a hammer*.

Mario Santizo has a particular and different look from the Guatemalan artists of his generation, because in his artistic practice irony, the sense of humor that often becomes satire, is always present, with which he deals with the hypocrisies and problems of Guatemalan society, and more in general, of the Latin American one.

The sun is a hammer, installation of 2016, is representative of this attitude, where the artist takes in consideration the figure of Carmen Miranda, famous Portuguese naturalized Brazilian singer and actress, who in the forties established herself internationally. Carmen Miranda is one of the figures that popularized the stereotype of the Latin American identity, as personifying the idea of the tropical in Western culture. In this way, this exuberant and exotic image is intended as an homogenizing figure of a region whose cultural complexity - among other aspects - goes beyond this cliché reduction. This work aims to be a commentary on the imaginary of the exotic and the tropical, repeatedly exploited by different contemporary artists as a strategy to insert themselves into the artistic circuit. The artist's operation, therefore, is the appropriation of the image of Carmen Miranda, who he embodies in a sequence of photographic images and a sculptural bust, which in some way cancels the stereotype by constructing, on the one hand, a humorous and performative image by changing the sex of the character, and on the other, an image that cancels the chromatism of the original character, emptying it from any iconographic reference and aesthetic exaggeration.

Mario Santizo was born in 1984, Zaragoza, Chimaltenango, Guatemala. He lives and works in Guatemala City.

The artist is part of the last generation of Guatemalan artists, who, being teenagers during the 90s, have a very different experience and imagination from the generations that preceded them, for the reason of a thirty-year bloody civil war that took place and concluded with a peace treaty signed in 1996. The artist's research is strongly influenced by theater and cinema which are used as vehicles and conceptual exercises that are resolved in the creative process of the "mise en scène". In order to deal with this issues felt by Guatemalan society, such as the discrimination against the Mayan people and the very strong social inequality that makes the country an oligarchy, the artist's look is not less attentive if he filters these realities through the game and the sense of the absurd as in the surreal and satirical comedy of Monthy Piton's "The sense of life", the irreverent lyrics of the first Frank Zappa, who, with his group Mothers of Invention, in particular in the album titled "We're Only in the Money", makes a mockery of the famous cover and album by the Beatles Sgt. Peppers Lonely Heart Club Band. These references, which marked the imagery of Mario's youth, allow him now, through parody and sense of humor, to distance himself from a frustrating everyday life, looking for new registers of thought.

For Information:

Prometeogallery di Ida Pisani, Milan / Lucca
Via G. Ventura, 6- 20134 – Milan, Italy
T: +39 02 83538236
Mob: +39 329 0564102 (Ida Pisani)
info@prometeogallery.com
www.prometeogallery.com