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WINTER

Simone Fattal, Francesco Gennari
curated by Lorenzo Giusti

opening reception: September 13, 2018, 6 – 9pm
September 14 – November 10, 2018

Lorenzo Giusti's *curated by* exhibition at Galerie Hubert Winter brings together a group of "scattered works" by Simone Fattal and Francesco Gennari's *Mausoleo per un verme*.

Simone Fattal. Border Landscapes

Simone Fattal (*1942, Damascus, Syria) has, since her childhood, a strong relation with the city of Vienna, very much embedded into her family history. Her grandfather, Khalil Fattal, was appointed Dragoman of the Austrian Empire in Damascus: in that capacity he was to help Austrian workers and travellers in Syria. After living in Vienna during World War I, Simone Fattal's father went back to Syria, where he worked as Austrian Consul and there he met her mother, who herself had Austrian ancestors.

Being her family connected to Austria in so many different ways, Simone Fattal's grew up in an environment full of Austrian cross-references: on one side her family house and car were carrying the Austrian flags, on the other her relatives would pass on to her all their stories.

Since the early 1980s, after fleeing the Lebanon Civil War, Simone Fattal has lived and worked as a sculptor in different parts of the world, from Beirut to Paris, from the South France to North California, exploring and reconfiguring through her practice the notions of history, freedom and feminism. All these geographical trajectories, and different historical and cultural backgrounds, find a common formal basis in her production of ceramics. At Galerie Hubert Winter, the artist displays a selection of sculptures produced during various periods of her life: artworks retrieved from her several homes representative of the diverse geographical identities and all related implications merged in her research.

Warriors are standing human figures who fight for their own existence. *Venus* are independent female, women bodies made of the same matter of the Earth. *Houses* are primitive shelters, basic architectural structures evoking indefinite urban landscapes, at the border between past and present, East and West, material and immaterial.

The selection-from 2006 till recently- forms a timeless village populated by mythological figures, both unidentifiable with specific places and identifiable with "anywhere".

Francesco Gennari. Mausoleum for a Worm

For the first time at the age of ten, Francesco Gennari (*1973, Pesaro, Italy) visited the Capuchin Crypt in Vienna, the great burial chamber of the House of Habsburg where he returned in his twenties.

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The experience deeply impressed him. The sight of this monument inspired the artist to conceive a new form of work merging sculpture and architecture. This is how in the early 2000s his first “Mausoleum for a Worm” came about: wooden sculptures thought as burial places for invertebrates in which the reflection on the Viennese monument establishes a dialogue with Italian Rationalist architecture. Created to contain death, not life, the *Mausoleums* paradoxically give the artist the greatest possible expressive freedom.

While on the one hand the meaning of Gennari’s architectures is encapsulated in darkness and within the closed geometric space, the tomb of the animal, on the other, a series of new drawings realized for this exhibition narrate Gennari’s mental landscape and the open avenues of his imagination.

At Galerie Hubert Winter Gennari moves from the inside to the outside, addressing universal issues – life and death, present and memory - with the lightness and the poetry which accompany his entire work.

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