

Markus Selg, Yves Scherer
Cupid & Psyche

5/9 – 21/10/2017

opening reception: 2/9/ 18–21h

SVIT Gallery Prague is pleased to present a Duo-Exhibition of Markus Selg and Yves Scherer. Taking on the greek myth of Cupid and Psyche, the artists have created an immersive environment which re-visits this traditional narrative to tell a story of love, longing and desire while undoing both gender roles and the distinct identity of its figures.

Upon entering the gallery space you feel a change in mood: pink lights flood the room and highlight a sort of playground in the middle of the space, small elements arranged on a large scale printed rug which has been placed within this aggregation of columns. There are butterfly's and the sound of birds in the air; as well as a different, more disturbing and synthetic noise.

Selg's Sculpture *Psyche* is a kinematic sculpture which slowly moves around the room, a Hoover robot turned actor in this animated stage. Machinentheater comes to mind, a German word which covers both the grime of heavy, industrial production and the beauty in the dance of the machines. Selg describes the moving head as a sort of glimpse in the virtual world which surrounds us. The entire existence of this head-only figure that is mounted on an electric Hoover, holds a fake patina that could be found in classical figures on a Prague cemetery, a face that seems to touch on the iconographic canon of multiple past high-cultures feels like a mistake. Like an idea, or a product gone wrong, a bug which it is sometimes called in software or simulation it feels like an attempt to connect with our big cultural myths, thereby missing to understand what's essentially and uniquely human. But while violent in its blind persistence, this midget monstrosity feels pathetic, calls for your compassion while combing through space, hitting walls and taking on the psychic landscape of the rug.

Arranged on this rug is *Cupid & Psyche*, a recent work by Yves Scherer. Sculpted after an iconic image taken by Annie Leibowitz of Johnny Depp & Kate Moss, the digital model then was CNC machined and moulded, so to reach its final appearance as a painted aluminium cast. Through its materiality, the overall shape and especially the blood coming from an apparent wound on its back, we are reminded of Christian depictions of Christ for example - the crucifix. At the same time it's about two distinct figures becoming a sort of unit, a format - the couple -, which tell us a story that is much less about the longing for love or psychology of each figure, but about the obstacles that you face as a couple; the things you are trying to achieve together and the fragile state and reality which forms the space between and around two people.

What first looks like a spring day in paradise then is a reflection on technology within the broader framework of cultural history, as well as a take on the struggles and strides of young love. All wrapped in an environment of confusion and divine beauty.