

Max Maxwell

DUALITY

15 June - 29 July 2018

No 20 Arts
20 Cross Street
London N1 2BG



Detail of Elektro (2018)

No 20 presents DUALITY, a solo exhibition by Max Maxwell featuring a body of work that includes paintings, sculptures and video installations. Maxwell's artworks result from his interest in the transformation of materials in order to show qualities which are not normally visible. The exhibition space is charged with an aura in which oil paints and metal leaf freely arranged and gilded on to aluminium panels are showed in conjunction with works that explore the ever-fascinating relationship between electricity and water.

Following Maxwell's recent artist residency in Bali in 2017, DUALITY presents an opportunity to lose oneself in the artworks resulting from the exploration of the dichotomies that preoccupy the artist most. Each piece is testimony to the relationship between the positive and negative, construction and destruction, conflict and reconciliation, beauty and decay.

On entering the gallery, we are confronted with a life-sized Victorian-era dress made entirely of copper. As shown in one of the other main pieces of the exhibition, the use of metals is not coincidental. *Futility of War* (2018), a large triptych on aluminium panels where landscapes from World War I are combined with images of war-torn Syria, also invites one to reflect on history, and the consequences of human-induced destruction. Exuding out of the panels are rusty pieces of metal swarf, which attempt to bring the smells and textures of the scenes depicted closer to the viewer.

At the centre of the exhibition is *Dark Star* (2018). Inspired by the first law of thermodynamics that states that matter can neither be created nor destroyed, but transformed from one state to another, this piece presents a block of ice suspended with

chains from the ceiling. Dimming LED lights encased in the block of ice slowly reveal as the ice melts, the droplets falling onto a large metal hot plate below. As the water touches the plate, the liquid sizzles and evaporates revealing intriguing forms and colours until now hidden in the hot plate.

Another key piece in the exhibition is *Vassal* (2018). This sculpture consists of two slave bracelets immersed in water undergoing reverse electroplation. It has been suggested that the origin of the slave bracelets dates back to a time when they were worn by female slaves. The breaking down and traveling of the particles from one bracelet to the other allows Maxwell's work to raise questions about memory, history and freedom, while exploring the principles behind the relationship between electricity and water.

DUALITY is an opportunity to immerse into the fascinating world of Max Maxwell, a world of organic experimentation where physical and chemical processes give way to artworks of alchemic beauty.

About the artist

Max Maxwell is a British multidisciplinary artist. He initially started his career as a creative assistant to Brian Eno and later became a set and lighting designer for live events. A series of projects followed with Maxwell creating concepts for music videos, contemporary dance, exhibitions and site specific installations.



His works have been exhibited internationally in group and solo shows, as well as selected for the Cannes Film Festival (2011).

About No 20

Opened in January 2017, No 20 is a centre for contemporary arts. A multi-functional space, No 20 hosts a programme of exhibitions, performances and events that support emerging and established artists working across all media.

For more information and prices, please contact info@no20arts.com

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