



Fernando Sánchez Castillo - *Introduction to the Stone of Madness*

exhibition: 18 June – 11 September 2016

The Spanish artist Fernando Sánchez Castillo is making an installation for the Stedelijk Museum 's-Hertogenbosch inspired by the fascination of Hieronymus Bosch with human folly, the thirst for material gain and worldly power. Sánchez Castillo analyses the relation between art, the individual and political power. His exhibition, consisting of sculptures, documents, drawings and videos, is playful and witty with a critical undertone.

As the point of departure for the exhibition, Fernando Sánchez Castillo chose the painting *The Cure of Folly (Extraction of the Stone of Madness)* by Hieronymus Bosch. This painting shows a man being cured of his folly by a quack. The stone is the symbol of human folly, a theme that plays an important part in the work of Sánchez Castillo.

The modern extraction begins by peering into the head of dictator Franco. Sánchez Castillo managed to get hold of his eyelashes and intends to have DNA examination performed on them. The question is whether it is possible to investigate the evil in a person's genetic code.

A group of objects is related to contemporary conflicts. Several small sculptures, drawings, documents and objects are combined to tell a new story. The presentation is derived from *The Haywain Triptych* by Bosch that criticises worldly affairs and the quest for material gain.

Around this installation are videos that link folly, power and violence. For instance, in the video *Stone Soul Army* the stone in its function as a primitive weapon is rendered harmless by getting a military band to make music with it. Sánchez Castillo 'revisits' traditional images in his exhibition to undermine expressions of power and claims the freedom of art and the artist to interrogate them.

The oeuvre of Fernando Sánchez Castillo (Madrid 1970) consists of videos, sculptures, installations, drawings and performances. His work analyses the relation between art, the individual and political power in a critical, analytical way. His work is serious, playful and witty at the same time. A theme running through his oeuvre is the turbulent history of Spain – particularly the dictator Franco.

Sánchez Castillo studied art and philosophy in Madrid and Paris. He became known in the Netherlands during his period of study at the Rijksacademie (2005-2006) in Amsterdam.

The Stedelijk Museum 's-Hertogenbosch invited Sánchez Castillo for a presentation of his work in connection with Jheronimus Bosch Year 2016. The exhibition forms part of the Bosch Grand Tour. Created with support by Stichting Jheronimus Bosch 500 and AC/E (Acción Cultural Española). With loans by: Tegenboschvanvreden, De Nederlandsche Bank en de Rabo Kunstcollectie.

(Not for publication) For more information or images: www.sm-s.nl/press/
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Press preview

On Thursday June 16, the exhibition *Fernando Sánchez Castillo, Introduction to the Stone of Madness* (18 June - 11 September, Stedelijk Museum 's-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands) will be presented to the Dutch and international press. At the same moment the following exhibitions can be previewed as well:

- *Nacho Carbonell, On the Origin of Pieces*
(18 June - 11 September, Stedelijk Museum 's-Hertogenbosch)
- *Jan Fabre: Tribute to Hieronymus Bosch in Congo*
(11 Juni - 18 September, Het Noordbrabants Museum)
- *Van Eyck, Brueghel, Jordaens – Masterpieces from Romania*
(18 Juni - 9 October, Het Noordbrabants Museum).

These four exhibitions are part of the Bosch Grand Tour. Would you like to preview these exhibitions, talk to the curators and artists, please send an e-mail to: communicatie@sm-s.nl or pers@hnbm.nl



Bosch Grand Tour - Jheronimus Bosch as source of inspiration

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Under the name *Bosch Grand Tour*, seven prominent museums in Brabant are presenting a 2016 exhibition programme of contemporary art to flank the exhibition *Jheronimus Bosch – Visions of Genius* (13 February – 8 May 2016) at the Noordbrabants Museum. Draw inspiration and be surprised during an exploration of contemporary art, design and culture in 's-Hertogenbosch, Breda, Eindhoven and Tilburg.

Bosch Grand Tour is a project of the Van Abbemuseum Eindhoven, De Pont Museum Tilburg, MOTI Museum of the Image Breda, Natuurmuseum Brabant Tilburg, Het Noordbrabants Museum 's-Hertogenbosch, Stedelijk Museum 's-Hertogenbosch, and the TextielMuseum Tilburg.

Bosch Grand Tour is part of the event *Jheronimus Bosch 500* organised by the Jheronimus Bosch 500 Foundation, the Province of North Brabant, and the City of 's-Hertogenbosch.

www.bosch500.nl/grandtour

For more information about *Jheronimus Bosch 500* please contact +31 (0)73 687 56 90 or send a mail to info@bosch500.nl