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« Mrdjan Bajić, *Frontier.* »
Exhibition from May 9th to June 17th 2023.

Galerie RX is pleased to present the third solo exhibition of artist Mrdjan Bajić (b. 1957), *Frontier.* After a major retrospective at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Belgrade (held from September 24, 2022 to January 23, 2023), the Serbian artist is back in Paris with a series of sculptures and drawings reflecting his interest in the material's expressivity. The exhibition includes about fifteen sculptures and nearly six large-scale drawings, and is an invitation to explore his work from a new angle and to reflect on one of the issues in his work: the question of frontiers.

The works of Mrdjan Bajić express dualities on multiple levels. First, the way his works take shape embraces this ambivalence by being composed of two distinct elements. The sculptures indeed adopt both a so-called living, organic element such as a face with Apollo or the map of Serbia resting on the boat of *By the beautiful Blue Danube*, and also a more mechanical, industrial element: a vehicle, a platform, and geometric shapes with pointed ends. A dialogue is created between these two parts and questions the spectator. They seem to rest on each other in an insecure but yet necessary balance. We can find this kind of balance on each of the formats proposed by the artist who plays with proportions and questions any reasoning of logical creation. What is first created? The drawing, the small sculpture and then the large format? All these questions are justified. However, the artist does not intend here to share his creative process with us, but rather to show us that the format changes our perception of the objects and the material that composes them. The very large sculptures immediately create a feeling of astonishment, of surprise, while the smaller ones establish a more intimate relationship with the viewer.

This double look in Bajić's works is not only in their plastic aspect: it is only a way used by the artist to express the frontier between the comic and the tragic, the political and the popular. This boundary line separates the two forms of different origin but connects them under the appearance of a frontier. *By the beautiful Blue Danube* shows us the frontier of Serbia, with the Danube as a boundary. Apollo, on the other hand, looks at the Mediterranean Sea, which was once a common territory for a whole people and which is now a delimitation, a frontier. In this piece, the artist uses the mythological figure of Apollo to suggest the tension between ancient and modern worlds, between Western and Eastern cultures, between ancient traditions and the challenges of contemporary times. By examining the border between East and West, Bajić highlights the geopolitical and cultural issues behind this geographical division.