

Future Life

Aleksandar Duravčević's (Saša) body of work cleverly delves into multiple layers of meaning. On a broader and more general level, it explores timeless connections and complex interplays, or tensions, at the intersection of two powerful forces, culture and nature - land versus people, mythos versus logos, and epistemological (how we know things) versus ontological (the nature of reality and existence), to name a few. Such dichotomies shape our perspectives, values, and decision-making processes, both individually and collectively in pursuit of a better understanding of the world. The images of tigers in different seasons perhaps symbolize various aspects of this connection - how nature influences culture, and how cultural elements are intertwined with the natural world.

On another level, the rendering of tigers in his work could carry further symbolic weight. Tigers are often associated with power, strength, and wilderness. They can represent the untamed aspects of nature and serve as a metaphor for the wild forces that exist in the world. By depicting tigers across the seasons, the artist might be exploring how these qualities resonate within different cultural and natural contexts. Future Life allows viewers to reflect on the intricate relationship between nature and culture through the lens of the majestic tiger and the changing seasons. The blending of symbolism, history, and artistic expression adds depth to the interpretation of his work.

The concept of animal spirit forms a common thread within various global indigenous cultures, wherein animals often serve as representations of specific qualities, characteristics, or even guides- embodying facets of human nature, spirituality, and identity. Within Saša 's repertoire, animals, notably tigers in this instance, become conduits linking the human self to archetypal animal energies.

The notion of animals as an extension of the self or embodying the warrior spirit carries profound symbolism. It encapsulates ideas of strength, courage, and primal instincts that have historically been revered in tribal societies. By infusing these concepts into his practice, Saša grants viewers a glimpse into his own cultural heritage and personal perspective, illuminating intricate connections between humanity, the animal kingdom, and the realms of symbolism that have shaped his ancestral home, Montenegro and Northern Albania, and by extension memory. They were the last of European tribal societies until the mid-20th century with their own social system and structure of chiefs, councils, and oral customary laws better known as kanun that governed all aspects of life.

Future Life not only explores the relationship between nature and culture but also delves into the complex interplay between human identity, animal symbolism, and the deep-rooted traditions that have shaped societies throughout history. Through his art, Saša offers a window into these themes and invites audiences to contemplate their significance in the context of contemporary art and culture.

-Michael Edwards