

*Esther Schipper*

UGO RONDINONE  
PRIMAL  
APRIL 26 – MAY 30, 2013

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Esther Schipper is pleased to present “primal” by Ugo Rondinone.

Working in a variety of media like sculpture, installation, painting, photography and video, Ugo Rondinone has been continuously addressing transient and ephemeral phenomena of time, fleeting emotions and momentous changes in atmosphere and moods of a place. During the last years the artist has captured these themes in a series of sculptures using different methods of casting. Motifs of Rondinone’s sculptural series range from genres classical of art history, such as still lifes and nudes, to redefined archetypical forms of primitive art: masks, large abstracted heads and animal figures. The artist reinvents these motifs in different scales and materials and plays with multiple historic and visual references, translating these timeless images in the contemporary art context.

In the current exhibition the transformed space of the gallery becomes the stage for the new sculptures by Ugo Rondinone: 34 bronze-cast figures of horses individual in their forms and sizes. The plywood flooring spreads across the rooms of the gallery, uniting the space and introducing an active natural element into the white-cube environment. The white washed windows diffuse the daylight and isolate the exhibition from the world outside. A suspended translucent disc of a stained-glass clock decorates some of the windows. These coloured, perfectly divided clock-faces, stripped of their hands, augment the impression of an arrested time and isolated environment. The gallery, which appears now to be transformed into a time capsule, is occupied by small figures of horses, each of them facing a different direction. These unique sculptures were modelled in clay and moulded by the artist himself, then cast in bronze and left raw after the casting. Both the uniqueness and the rough, hand-made character of the sculptures are emphasised by the titles given to each of the works and written by hand on the walls of the gallery. Introducing a romantic undertone to the show these titles, or rather names, refer to primordial natural phenomena: “the lava”, “the cosmos”, “the foliage”, “the sunrise” etc.

Although the exhibition seems to play with modernist means of expression like the materiality of bronze sculpture, contrasts of wood and bronze surfaces, the reappearing motif of a horse (that bears one of the longest traditions in art history), the collage and interplay of all these elements in the show brings in a subversive sentimental and popular twist characteristic of works by Ugo Rondinone. The works on display in “primal” follow the series of bronze cast bird sculptures shown in 2012 in the exhibitions “primitive” at the Common Guild, Glasgow and Art Unlimited, Basel. The artist’s appropriation and redefinition of classical and archetypical images in bronze and aluminium casts continues the line of his earlier “Nude”, “Moonrise” and olive tree sculptures and works in the on-going “still life” series.

On April 23rd Ugo Rondinone’s public art project “Human Nature”, commissioned by the Public Art Fund for Rockefeller Plaza, was inaugurated in New York (on view until June 7, 2013). The next solo exhibition of the artist “thank you silence” will open at the M Museum, Leuven in June (June 27 - October 6, 2013).

Ugo Rondinone, born in Switzerland in 1964, lives and works in New York. He studied at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. He has exhibited extensively internationally and his recent solo shows include: “primitive”, The Common Guild, Glasgow (2012); “Wisdom? Peace? Blank? All of this?”, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna (2012) and “Nude”, Cycladic Art Museum, Athens (2012). Recent and upcoming group shows with participation of the artist are: “Nasher XChange”, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas; “Dark Optimism”, MoMAPS1, New York; “Lightness of Being”, Public Art Fund ‘city hall park’, New York; “Dynamo”, Galeries, Nationales du Grand Palais, Paris; “Una Posibilidad de Escape. Para Asaltar el Estudio de la Realidad y Volver a Grabar el Universo”, EACC, Castellon; “Lass Dich von der Natur anwehen – Landschaftszeichnung der Romantik und Gegenwart”, Kunsthalle Bremen, Bremen (all: 2013).



primal, installation view, 2013



primal, installation views, 2013



primal, installation view, 2013



primal, installation view, 2013





the aurora, 2013  
Bronze  
22,86 x 27,94 x 8,89 cm  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's proofs #1/3  
(UR 094)



the solar system, 2013  
Bronze  
19,69 x 27,31 x 7,62 cm  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's proofs #1/3  
(UR 107)



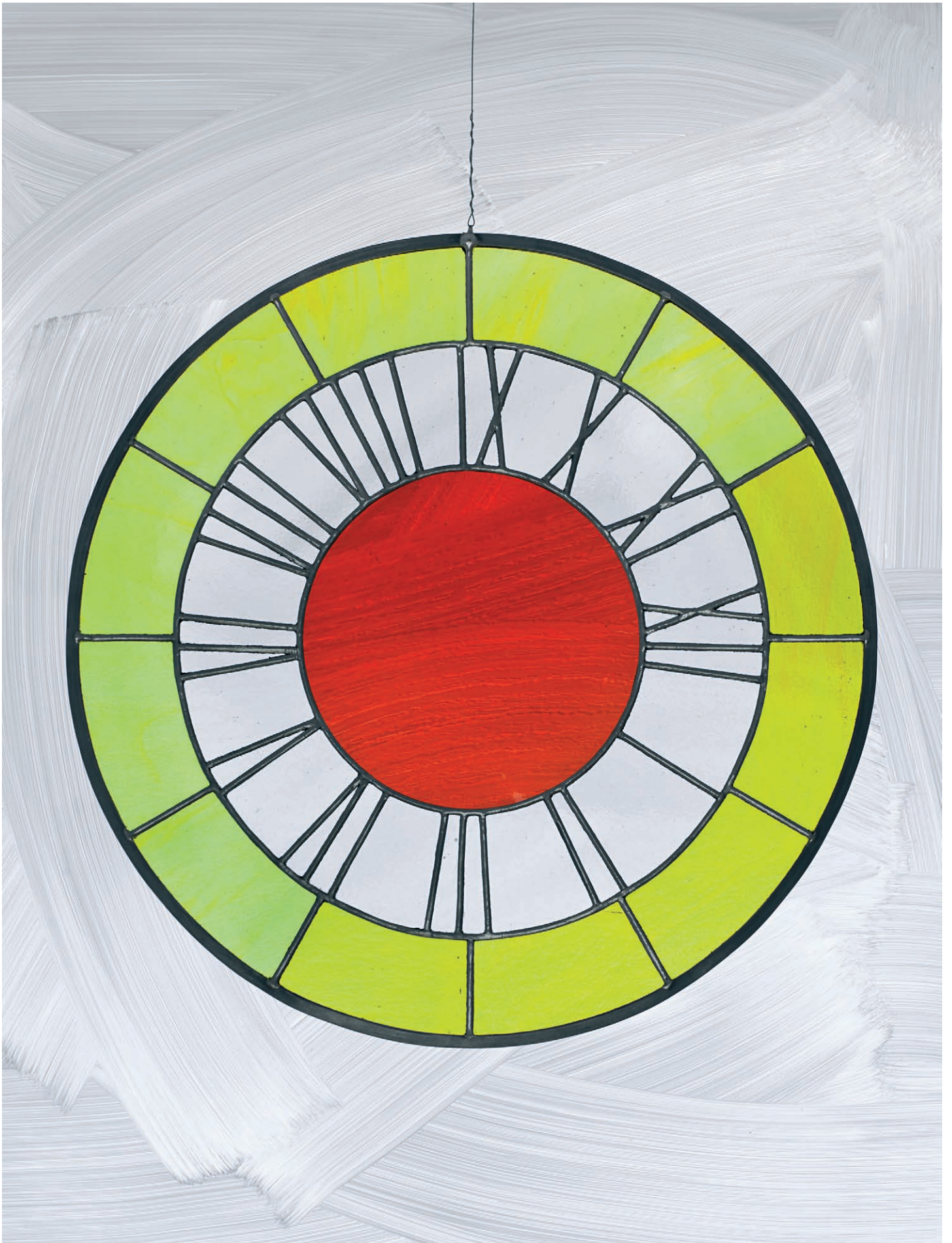


the root, 2013  
Bronze  
19,05 x 26,67 x 7,62 cm  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's proofs #1/3  
(UR 126)



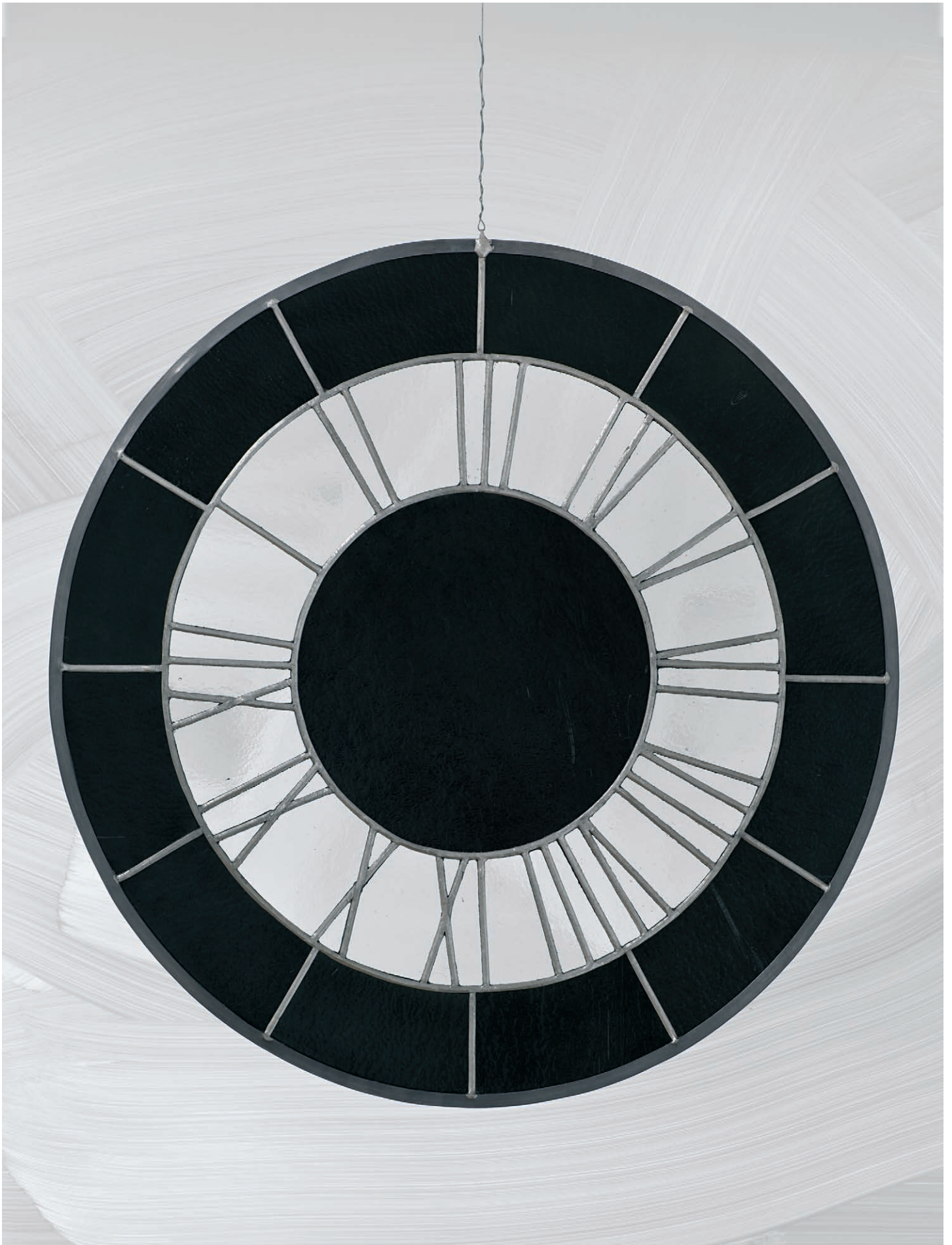
the algae, 2013  
Bronze  
17,14 x 22,23 x 5,71 cm  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's proofs #1/3  
(UR 116)



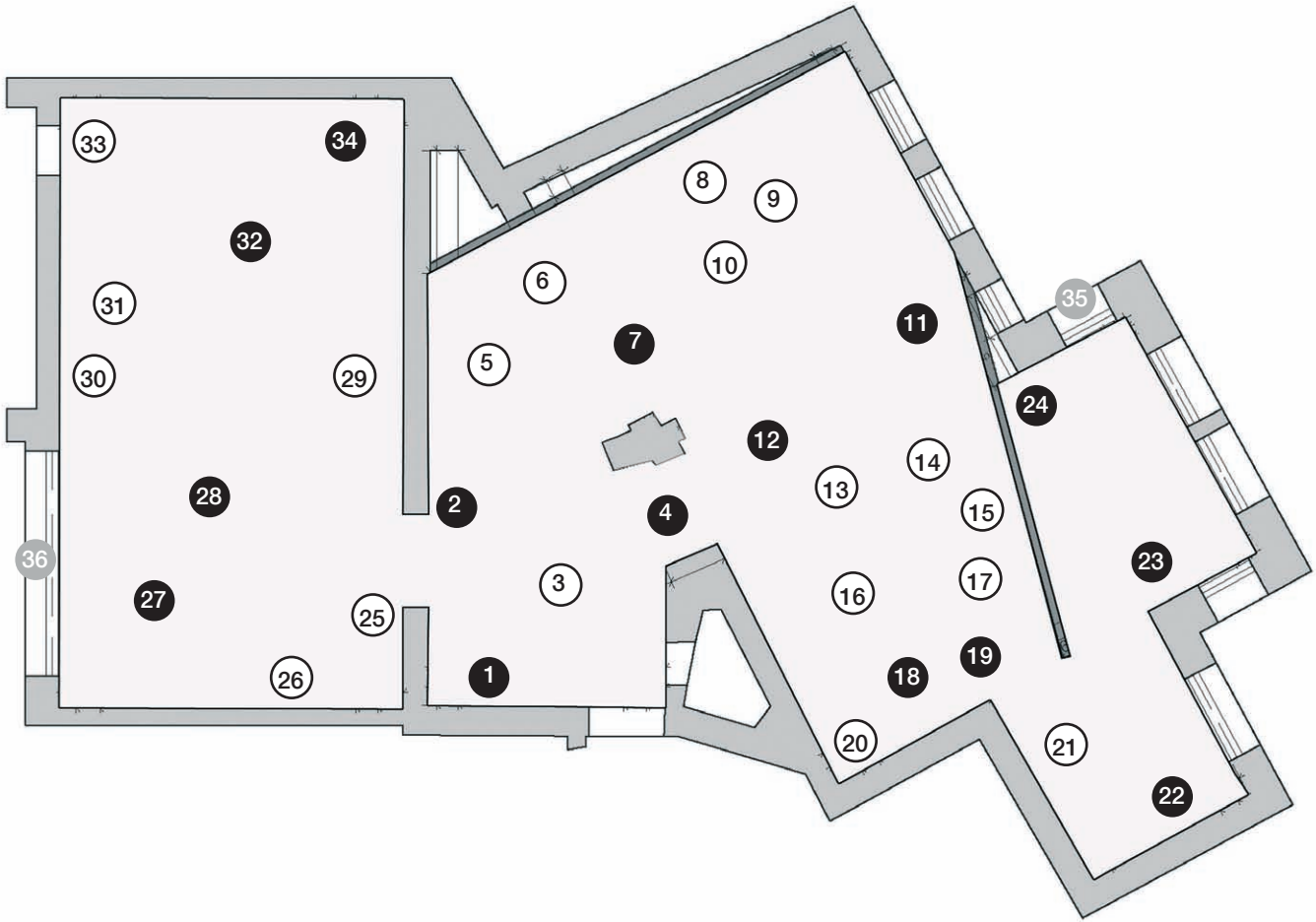


yellow white orange clock, 2013  
Stained-glass window, wire  
ø 50 cm, depth 0,7 cm  
Installation dimensions variable  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's proofs #1/3  
(UR 089)





black white black clock, 2013  
Stained-glass window, wire  
ø 50 cm, depth 0,7 cm  
Installation dimensions variable  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's proofs  
(UR 090)

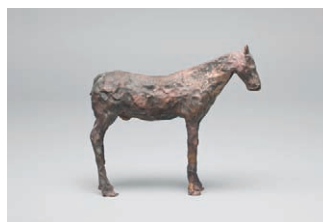


**Legend**

- |                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The Sponge       | 21. The Shadow                |
| 2. The Cosmos       | 22. The Sediment              |
| 3. The Solar System | 23. The Wilderness            |
| 4. The Plant        | 24. The Geyser                |
| 5. The Meteor       | 25. The Solar Eclipse         |
| 6. The Organism     | 26. The Artic                 |
| 7. The Haze         | 27. The Bacteria              |
| 8. The Grassland    | 28. The Animal                |
| 9. The Aurora       | 29. The Sunrise               |
| 10. The Jungle      | 30. The Root                  |
| 11. The Microbe     | 31. The Fungi                 |
| 12. The Algae       | 32. The Mist                  |
| 13. The Land        | 33. The Weather               |
| 14. The Lava        | 34. The Tsunami               |
| 15. The Cactus      |                               |
| 16. The Iceberg     | 35. Black white black clock   |
| 17. The Beach       | 36. Yellow white orange clock |
| 18. The Foliage     |                               |
| 19. The Shell       | ● € 21.000,00                 |
| 20. The Wave        | ○ € 24.000,00                 |
|                     | ● € 42.000,00                 |



1. The Sponge, 2013  
17,78 x 19,05 x 6,35 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 112)



6. The Organism, 2013  
22,86 x 26,67 x 6,6 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 119)



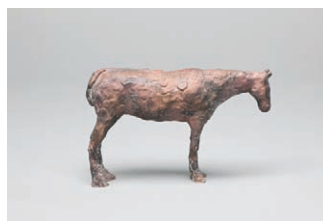
2. The Cosmos, 2013  
16,51 x 24,77 x 7,62 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 095)



7. The Haze, 2013  
15,24 x 20,32 x 6,35 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 097)



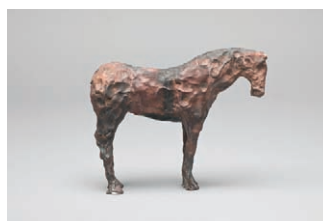
3. The Solar System, 2013  
19,69 x 27,31 x 7,62 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 107)



8. The Grassland, 2013  
17,14 x 24,77 x 6,35 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 117)



4. The Plant, 2013  
20,83 x 20,32 x 5,08 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 128)



9. The Aurora, 2013  
22,86 x 27,94 x 8,89 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 094)



5. The Meteor, 2013  
19,05 x 24,45 x 8,89 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 102)



10. The Jungle, 2013  
19,05 x 26,67 x 8,26 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 103)



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11. The Microbe, 2013  
15,24 x 22,23 x 6,35 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 115)



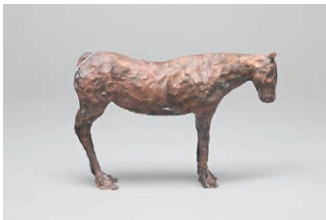
16. The Iceberg, 2013  
Bronze  
19,69 x 29,21 x 9,75 cm  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs  
(UR 108)



12. The Algae, 2013  
17,14 x 22,23 x 5,71 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 116)



17. The Beach, 2013  
17,78 x 26,67 x 7,62 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 110)



13. The Land, 2013  
18,41 x 27,94 x 6,99 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 118)



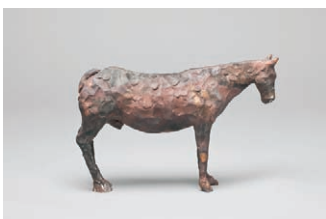
18. The Foliage, 2013  
17,78 x 21,59 x 7,62 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 098)



14. The Lava, 2013  
21,59 x 32,39 x 8,26 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 092)



19. The Shell, 2013  
17,15 x 24,13 x 7,62 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 096)



15. The Cactus, 2013  
20,96 x 33,02 x 7,62 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 114)



20. The Wave, 2013  
21,59 x 33,02 x 9,53 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 100)

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21. The Shadow, 2013  
17,78 x 30,48 x 8,26 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 093)



26. The Artic, 2013  
23,5 x 28,58 x 7,62 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 101)



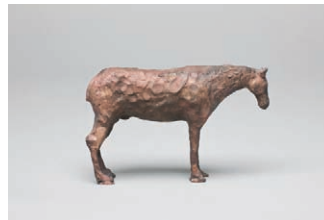
22. The Sediment, 2013  
15,24 x 22,86 x 6,35 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 120)



27. The Bacteria, 2013  
19,05 x 21,59 x 5,08 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 131)



23. The Wilderness, 2013  
18,41 x 20,96 x 6,35 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 113)



28. The Animal, 2013  
15,88 x 24,13 x 5,08 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 129)



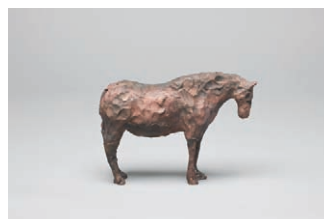
24. The Geyser, 2013  
14,60 x 26,67 x 6,35 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 088)



29. The Sunrise, 2013  
26,67 x 30,48 x 9,53 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 099)



25. The Solar Eclipse, 2013  
19,68 x 24,13 x 8,89 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 111)

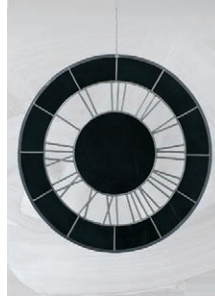


30. The Root, 2013  
19,05 x 26,67 x 7,62 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 126)

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31. The Fungi, 2013  
20,32 x 24,13 x 6,35 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 130)



35. black white black clock, 2013  
Bleiglasfenster, Draht / Stained-glass  
window, wire  
ø 50 cm, depth 0,7 cm  
Installation dimensions variable  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's proofs  
(UR 090)



32. The Mist, 2013  
16,51 x 24,77 x 6,35 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 125)



36. yellow white orange clock, 2013  
Bleiglasfenster, Draht / Stained-glass  
window, wire  
ø 50 cm, depth 0,7 cm  
Installation dimensions variable  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's proofs  
(UR 089)



33. The Weather, 2013  
21,59 x 27,94 x 7,62 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 127)



34. The Tsunami, 2013  
14,61 x 20,96 x 5,71 cm  
Bronze  
edition of 3 plus 1 artist's  
proofs (#1/3)  
(UR 109)

IMPRESSUM

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PHOTOS BY : © ANDREA ROSSETTI

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