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SUGAR, PORK, BOURBON

Sanford Biggers

April 5 - May 18, 2013

On April 5, Massimo De Carlo presents *Sugar, Pork, Bourbon*, the first solo exhibition in Italy of the American artist Sanford Biggers.

Biggers is a New Yorker by adoption, but originally from Los Angeles. He has traveled the world extensively and **his works reflect his multicultural background**. Sanford Biggers' paintings, sculptures, and installations mix Afro-American traditions and aesthetics with Japanese symbolism, Central European references with contemporary urban experiences and Italian technique with the rhythms of hip-hop music.

For his first solo exhibition at Massimo De Carlo, **Sanford Biggers** presents *Sugar, Pork, Bourbon*, a series of **new works that are a synthesis of his artistic and cultural path to date**.

At the centre of the **Sanford Biggers'** exhibition are the *quilts*, patchwork textiles on which the artist paints and sews decorative motifs and complex systems of strongly symbolic images. The quilts are believed to be tools of communication used by the escaped American slaves in the 19th Century to communicate with one another on their journey to freedom on the Underground Railroad. The quilts were hung at "stations", outside houses and on the façades of churches in the Deep South.

Sanford Biggers amplifies these topics by **painting symbolic elements** like the lotus flower, which comes from Japanese figurative tradition. In Biggers' hands the lotus petals which usually represent transcendence and tranquillity instead are diagrams of cross sections of slave ships, illustrating the most efficient method of shipping slaves from Africa to the New Continent.

In Sanford Biggers' world the **floating cotton cloud sculptures become a symbol of newfound freedom** challenging the levity of the material versus the gravity of the slave experience.

Sanford Biggers was born in Los Angeles in 1970 and has lived and worked in New York since 1999. He has lived in many American cities as well as in Japan, Italy, Germany, Poland, and Hungary. Biggers has exhibited with personal and collective shows in leading museums and institutions like the Tate Britain and the Tate Modern in London, the Whitney Museum and Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco. The artist's works have been included in many exhibitions such as Prospect 1, New Orleans Biennial, New Orleans, 2008, Illuminations at the Tate Modern in London, 2007, Performa 07 in New York, 2007, the Whitney Biennial, New York, 2002 and Freestyle at the Studio Museum of Harlem, 2001.

Biggers is currently an Assistant Professor in the Visual Arts department of Columbia University in New York City.



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Useful Information:

Massimo De Carlo

Via Giovanni Ventura, 5 - 20134 Milan

Dates: 5th April – 18th May, from Tuesday to Saturday from 11.30 am to 7.30 pm

Opening 5th April, 2013 from 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm

For further information and images please contact:

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