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MARC FOXX

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MATEO TANNATT

A Faun On The Lawn and Other Translations for Laying Bricks

23 November 2013 – 4 January 2014

Reception Saturday 23 November 6:00 to 8:00 PM

MARC FOXX is pleased to present new work by Los Angeles-based artist **Mateo Tannatt** in his third solo exhibition with the gallery.

In the exhibition, *A Faun On The Lawn and Other Translations for Laying Bricks*, Tannatt investigates translation as a visual language, seeking to engage and cast viewers as active participants in the experience of translating. Steel, resin, stone, aluminum, brass, clay, wood, cloth and photography are all specifically employed to establish these differences and repetitions of translation.

Tannatt's twin painted resin sculptures, Michael (Blue-Gemini) and Michael (Pink-Capricorn) recline in the exhibition as reconsiderations of other historical translations, acting as revisions of Paul McCarthy's Michael Jackson and Bubbles (Gold) (1997-1999), which itself is a translation of Jeff Koons' Michael Jackson and Bubbles (1988) homage to Michelangelo's Pietà. Tannatt's happy (pink) and sad (blue) iterations call on the iconic classical Greek tragic and comic masks, while employing a Constructivist and abstracted language in his extension of this art historical trajectory.

Rising from the center of the gallery, Hungarian Cinema nods to the precedents of public sculpture and exhibition architecture, referencing the theories of visionaries like Frederick Kiesler and Lina Bo Bardi, as well as the work of Heimo Zobernig, who have all contributed new exhibition and display possibilities for viewing art. Here, two large curved steel elements create a serpentine wall from which two counterbalanced steel "paintings" hang, while a large aluminum cooking pot sits on the floor, tucked into one of the sculpture's curved alcoves. The pot, which contains a black/white 16mm film (made by the artist), is chained shut and acts as a makeshift shipping container. FedEx labels adhered to the exterior to show its traversing from the artist's studio to a Hungarian film production facility — again underscoring the histories of Eastern European Constructivism, as well as their use of new narrative forms of literary translation and adaption.

The translation and traveling of language, narrative and history is conveyed and given graphic and minimalist form in the three folded steel tongue shapes of Untitled, 2013, while visual translation is addressed in the other sculptural triptych in the exhibition, Müller Lyer, 2013. This brushed brass coated aluminum sculpture (installation variable, seen floor mounted here) is derived from the confounding Meyer graphic diagram, maintaining its optical graphic effect in Tannatt's new sculptural state.

In Picnic, 2013, the artist's head was 3D scanned and molded, while his own body was used for a series of molds to recreate Tannatt's total form in this playful cast resin and cloth work. The combination of classical and technological mold making techniques results

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in an impressively precise figurative sculpture lying horizontally in a state of rigor that is underscored by the checkered cloth element that forms a key tent shape upon the sculpture's plane.

These works, and others in the exhibition, travel across many forms, materials and histories in a poetical journey towards developing translation

Mateo Tannatt's work has been exhibited in "*More Young Americans*", L'Enclos des Bernardins - Hôtel de Miramion, Paris, curated by Marc-Olivier Wahler, "*When Attitudes Became Form Become Attitudes*", CCA Wattis, San Francisco, curated by Jens Hoffman, "*First Among Equals*", Institute of Contemporary Arts, Philadelphia, curated by Alex Klein and Kate Kraczon and "*All of This and Nothing*", The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, curated by Douglas Fogle and Anne Ellegood. Tannatt conceived special works for *Frieze Projects*, New York (2013), "*Alan Kaprow Push and Pull, Reinvention*", *ArtParcours*, Art Basel (2012), and "*Pity City Ballet*", *Performa 11*, New York (2011). In 2008, Tannatt was the recipient of the *Illy Prize for Emerging Art*.

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