

**Pavlos Tsakonas**

*Homo Faber, Magister*

Solo show

Duration: 05.07.17 - 30.08.17

During **DOCUMENTA14** and throughout the summer period CAN gallery presents the solo exhibition of **Pavlos Tsakonas** (b.1983).

The show juxtaposes paintings of industrial tools with paintings of products of mass culture, astral objects and elements that compose a series of pop profiles of an unknown god. Tsakonas' main medium is acrylics on wood cut to take the shape of things. He uses vivid or florescent colors and his style is characterized by an intense photo-realism. The works are completed with a series of wall paintings that transform the paintings into a series of floating three-dimensional objects in space.

The *Deus Faber* (God the Maker) creation myth is one in which, according to Medieval and Renaissance depictions, a deity creates the world using the methods of a craftsman. Tsakonas transfers the myth here as *Homo Faber, Magister* (Man the Maker, the Magician) according to which man is the one who controls his own fate and his environment through the tools he manufactures. The archetype of a Creator-Magician is combined with oversized food-toys and tool-toys that lead us to the idea of the *Homo Ludens / Deus Ludens* (ludens = the one who likes to play) placing the notion of play at the center of our attention as a distinct and highly important factor in the world's life and doings and therefore as a fundamental prerequisite to human civilization. Our civilization not only arises but also evolves in and as play. Play is not just a mere biological phenomenon but a cultural phenomenon that is worth studying both historically and scientifically.

The element of play in the current exhibition occupies its key role also through a series of dipoles such as reality-illusion, material-spiritual, work-play, holy-blasphemous and so on. The artist is the one who assumes both the role of the *Faber* playing the Maker-Creator and that of the *Magister* standing for the Magician-Master or according to Hermann Hesse the *Magister Ludi* (= Master of the Game).

**Bio.** Pavlos Tsakonas was born in 1983 in Athens, Greece. In his work we encounter many contradictory references on subjects and objects of the industrial-urban culture, advertising, the internet and video games. He studied painting at the Athens School of Fine Arts where he also attended classes on sculpture and in 2008 he graduated with a distinction. In 2013 he presented his solo exhibition entitled "Wunderkammer" at CAN gallery, Athens. Selected Group Exhibitions: "Something of Exquisite Beauty", ELIKA Gallery, Athens, "Parallel Vienna", Vienna, Austria, "Kenophobia", CAN Christina Androulidaki gallery, Athens, "Misfits", CAN Christina Androulidaki gallery, Athens, "Element of Ground", Artwall, Athens, "WAF Review", Vienna, Austria, "I Thought You Were The Real Thing", Romantso, Athens, "Babylon Radio", 3137



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Project Space, Athens, "Aegeanale", Kivotos Art Project, Mykonos, "Light Walls", Kunstraum am Schaubplatz, Vienna, Austria, "Painting Today", Athens, "Dayz of Glory", Openshowstudio presents, Athens, "Thrills and Chills", Daily Lazy Projects, CAN Christina Androulidaki gallery, Athens, "What Lies Hidden Remains Unfamiliar", ReMapKM, CAN Christina Androulidaki gallery, Athens, "Lustland vol.III", curated by Nadia Argyropoulou, Thermisia, Argolida, "Public Issues, New Moon", OpenShowStudio, Athens, "Preview from the Permanent Collection of Tsakonas & Alexandridis Foundation", Empros Theater, Athens, "Controlled Explosion, True Romance", Dynamo Project Space, Thessaloniki, "Visual Artist in Greece", Intercontinental Hotel, Athens, "Hosted in Athens", P O S T, Athens, "Breeder Easter", The Breeder Gallery, Athens, "12 New Visual Artists", Melina Merkouri Cultural Foundation, Athens, "Undisclosed Recipients", TAF, Athens, "Demo #1", Dynamo Project Space, Thessaloniki, "Walk The Line", Animafest, LAIS, Athens, "No Money Just Honey", A.antonopoulou Art gallery, Athens, "Turbulent Times", TAF, Athens, "Nestle Art", Technopolis, Athens, "Biennale Maris", Athens and Crete. Tsakonas lives and works in Athens, GR.