

BEN BROWN FINE ARTS

Press Release for Immediate Release

NOT VITAL: SUICIDES

11 June – 28 August, 2010
Private View 23 June, 2010 6-8 pm

Ben Brown Fine Arts is pleased to present its first solo exhibition of works by Swiss-born artist Not Vital. The show opens on 11th June and will run until 28th August 2010, at 12 Brook's Mews London.

The exhibition is centred around eleven new sculptures. These are titled and based on a selection of famous artists, writers, an architect, a musician and a fashion designer, from Borromini to Alexander McQueen. The connection between these historical figures is suicide and the ongoing public admiration for their creative work.

Each "portrait" consists of two simple rectangular silver blocks placed on top of each other. The shimmering silver sculptures were fabricated by silversmiths in Agadez, Niger where Vital lives for part of the year in a mud house. The dimensions and shape of each "portrait" accord with the date of each individual death. While the height and width of the base is defined by the year of death, the upper block relates to the month and day.

These sculptures appear on first view to be 'memorial-like'; they are more representative of the individual death than the individual themselves. Each sculpture is given a singular, concrete shape by the date of death itself.

The visualisation of an abstract idea or an occurrence like death, the attempt to give form to something which is formless and the tension which this intrinsically creates are recurrent themes in Vital's work. The transformation of material and form, of matter and meaning is a critical aspect of Vital's sculptural work.

Not Vital was born in Sent, Engadine, Switzerland in 1948 lives and works in Sent, Lucca (Italy), New York and Agadez (Niger). In 1968 Vital moved to Paris to study art at the Centre Universitaire Expérimental de Vincennes and in 1974 he went to New York to concentrate on his work as a sculptor.

Vital's work has been shown regularly and is recognised all over the world and is represented in major museum and private collections. He has exhibited at Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland, Kunsthalle Bielefeld, Germany, The Guggenheim Museum Soho, and the Museum of Modern Art, New York amongst others. His work was also shown at the 49th Venice Biennale.

The artist will be in attendance at the Private View and is available for interviews.

A catalogue is available with a text by Anthony Downey.

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