No Lemon, No Melon

02.22.2018 - 03.24.2018

Artist Mike Bourscheid



No Lemon, No Melon Exhibition View Nosbaum Reding, Luxembourg, 2018

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For his first solo show at Nosbaum Reding, Mike Bourscheid (born in 1984, lives and works in Luxembourg and Vancouver, Canada) presents a series of installations, drawings and photograms with hints of an equestrian theme: saddle, harness and helmet take centre stage in a setting reminiscent of a medieval tournament, whose putative winner will take home a crown that doubles up as a vase - a nod to the artist's recent exhibition Thank you so much for the flowers in the Luxembourg Pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale.

But as the exhibition title in the form of an anagram (and palindrome!) suggests, Bourscheid likes to upend the conventional order of things. Donning a lemon-coloured leotard, his champion rider is cast in the dubious role of the horse, or the flag-bearer at best - a consenting victim rather than fearless competitor in a contest whose rules elude him (and us). Referring to the appendages and prosthetics in the artist's work, Kimberly Phillips, curator at the Contemporary Art Gallery in Vancouver, reminds us that in his performances, 'these costume-objects often become actors in their own right, functioning simultaneously as ritualistic semaphores and as theatrical props'.

A master of red herrings and double-entendre, Bourscheid here locates male identity somewhere between sadomasochistic contraption and comical quest for the Holy Grail. For those who doubt the outcome of this solitary duel, the photograms illustrate the fate awaiting its sceptical protagonist: all that remains is the protective coat of mail, a seemingly random concatenation of rings whose spectral gravitas is undermined by the white shadow of the shoes worn by the unfortunate gentle man when he kicked the bucket.

As part of the exhibition, the artist will present a new performance entitled no lemon, no melon during the opening on Thursday 22 February 2018, and during the 'Midi de l'Art' guided tour by the Friends of the Museums Luxembourg on Friday 23 February 2018.

Image:

Mike Bourscheid, no lemon, no melon, 2018 Copyright Mike Bourscheid

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Gallery Nosbaum Reding

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no lemon, no melon, 2018 Mixed media Dimensions variable

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 $\it no\ melon$, 2015 - 2018 Wearing wood, leather, embraces curtains, stirrups, metal hardware 130 x 141 x 27 cm

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no lemon, 2018 Wooden carrying, leather, copper ashtray, metal hardware, lighter $94 \times 28 \times 28$ cm

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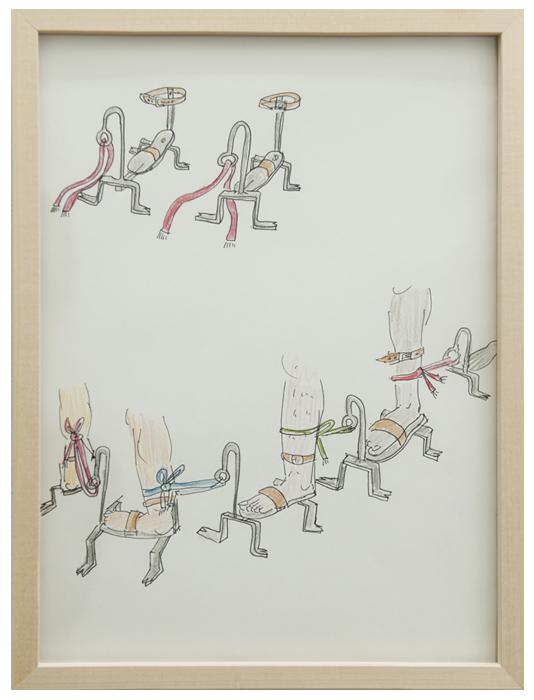
Camile, 2018 Watercolor on paper 30 x 22,5 cm Frame: 37,5 x 29,8 cm

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Camille, 2018 Watercolor on paper 30 x 22,5 cm Frame: 37,5 x 29,8 cm

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Preparation drawing for Idealverein, 2016 ink and pencil on paper 30,1 x 22,4 cm

Frame: 32,2 x 24,2 cm

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Preparation drawing for The wellbeing of things: a 5km race, 2016

Ink and pencil on paper 30,1 x 22,4 cm

Frame: 32,2 x 24,2 cm

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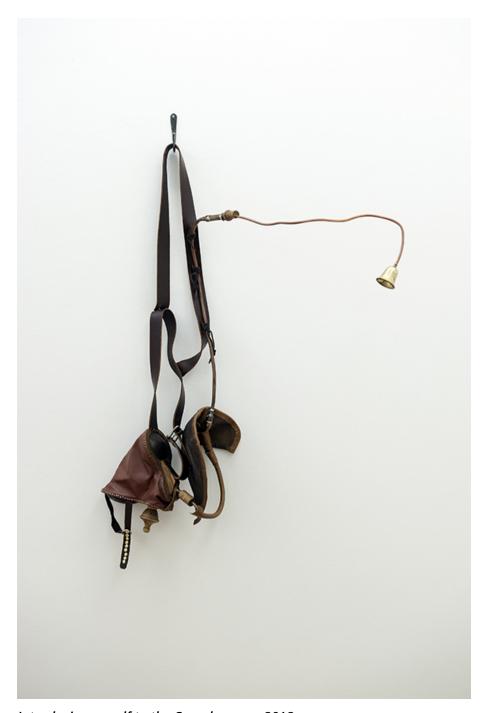


Preparation drawing for The wellbeing of things: a 5km race, 2016

Ink and pencil on paper 30,1 x 22,4 cm

Frame: 32,2 x 24,2 cm

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Introducing myself to the Canada geese, 2012 Leather, wood, copper, reed 123 x 83 x 38,5 cm

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Thank you so much for the flowers - Ceramic helmet, 2016 Poterie en céramique, cuivre jaune $78 \times 30 \times 30$ cm

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Vase esquisse, 2016 Ceramic pottery small hand-thrown vases Dimensions variable