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**Bosco Sodi**

**TRANSMUTATIONS**

**5. 9. – 8. 11. 2024**

**Curator: Emma Hanzlíková**

**DSC Gallery is pleased to announce Bosco Sodi's debut in the Czech Republic. The artist is known for his minimalist paintings and objects with tactile surfaces, which he creates with natural pigments.**

The author works between New York, Mexico and Japan, and his work embodies the noticeable differences between these environments. He oscillates within traditional categories on the border between rough informalism, colorism, arte povera and land art. The principle of chance is vital to his work. Much of it is influenced by the traditional Japanese philosophy of "Wabi-Sabi" (accepting the beauty of things through their transience and imperfection). The artist creates unique textures with his bare hands, working in a performative way that creates a transcendental interface between him and his work. Sodi’s monochrome paintings reveal organic structures—rough textured surfaces, cracks and chasms. He describes his creative process as controlled chaos — unrepeatable and unique. “*Humility to accept things as they are, appreciating simplicity and accepting imperfections are, in turn, some of the principles of Japanese philosophy, which stand in opposition to the Western ideal of beauty. For example, the desired surface according to wabi-sabi is earthy, imperfect and yet diverse. Bosco's paintings, which are based on the observation of nature, have just such textures,*“ explains the exhibition’s curator, Emma Hanzlíková.

For the exhibition itself, Sodi prepared twelve paintings, unified in format and colour. Carmine red is a symbolic colour in the visual arts—in sacred and secular environments and across cultures. The pigment is extracted from the crushed dried insects of the nopal worm, native to the Oaxaca region of Mexico. It reached the European continent only after the colonization of America. *“This conscious work with colour and its states of matter foreshadows the alchemical spirit that longs to transmute raw materials from the materia prima. The exhibition’s production process is characterised by repetitive changeability that is almost meditative in nature. It allows Sodi to clear his mind of unnecessary elements and focus only on painting. The format determines the creative process; the rest is uncontrollable and emerges spontaneously,”* the curator adds.

The embodiment of Bosco's philosophy and the "Wabi-Sabi" approach lies in the creation of his non-profit art center CASA WABI. It is a residential space for artists, built in 2014 by the Japanese architect Tadao Ando, ​​with whom the artist frequently collaborates.

Bosco Sodi is represented by private galleries such as Kasmin Gallery New York, the Mexican gallery Hilario Galguera, Koenig Gallery in Berlin, or Cardi gallery in Milan, which focuses primarily on the secondary market, on authors such as Donald Judd, Richard Serra and Lucio Fontana. And last but not least, Sodi is represented by the Flemish gallery Axel Vervoordt, which collaborates, for example, with Francois Pinault. The author regularly presents his work through his core galleries at Art Basel.

The gallery’s director, Edmund Čučka, the man behind the exhibition, comments: *"Bosco Sodi is one of the leading figures of the contemporary art scene. The important thing for me is that his work is completely unique, unmistakable and recognizable at first glance, just like the works of Damien Hirst or Luciano Fontana! I firmly believe that this exhibition will be a landmark event which will help connect the Czech cultural scene and the wider art world."*

**Bosco Sodi** (\*1970, Mexico)

Bosco Sodi was born in 1970 in Mexico City. He uses natural materials in his work, such as clay and coloured pigments, from which he creates impressive paintings with distinctive textures. Sodi has exhibited in institutions around the world and has been part of major art shows. In 2022, he launched a site-specific exhibition at Palazzo Vendarmin Grimani, titled *What Goes Around Comes Around*, for the Venice Biennale. In addition to exhibitions in galleries and institutions, he creates installations in historical interiors and public spaces. In 2017, he built a *Muro* brick wall in NYC's Washington Square in which passers-by could take apart. As part of the Parcours, organized by Art Basel in 2022, he placed his installation in a dialogue with a Gothic church on Münsterplatz.

In addition to his own works of art, he co-creates exceptional architectural projects. Bosco Sodi strives to give back to the artistic community. In 2022, he founded the non-profit *Assembly* exhibition spaces in Monticello near NYC. He thus built upon his earlier project, the art center Casa Wabi. Founded in 2013 in Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca, Mexico, the art center facilitates a cultural exchange between international contemporary artists and the local community. Designed by Japanese architect Tadao Ando, ​​the spaces are open to artist residencies and also include Sodi's studio, where his clay sculptures are created.

Sodi's works are placed in significant institutional and private collections. Bosco Sodi is represented by Kasmin Gallery, Axel Verwoordt Gallery, Galeria Hilario Galguera, Galeria Luciano Brota, Galeria Carles Tache, Scai the Bathhouse, Cardi Gallery and König Gallery. He lives with his family in Brooklyn.