

Daide Balliano

Culebra

MAY 25–JUNE 30 2019 | OPENING MAY 25, 6 PM



Daide Balliano
UNTITLED_0144

Plaster, gesso and lacquer on wood
152.4 x 152.4 cm
2019

Dirimart is delighted to present *Culebra*, an exhibition of recent paintings of New York-based artist Davide Balliano. Opening on Thursday May 25th, the show marks the artist's first solo presentation of his work in Istanbul.

Balliano's austere research operates on a cosmos of calculated shapes, halved arches and spirals, bearing traces of baroque and modernist architecture. Sourcing from detailed geometrical constructions, his paintings in plaster and gesso on wood, evolve through progressive alterations, erosions, and weathering of the surface, carrying the work to the third dimension on the verge of sculpture. The result is a constellation of dynamic compositions, mapping the complex system that surrounds and contains us, or at least the artist's sketch of his impression of it.

However, recently, Balliano's attention shifted inwards, focusing on the dynamics that regulate our nature and identity as humans, both in the historical context of our time and in relation to the surrounding universe. A perceptive illusion is introduced to its vocabulary: vibrating motion of wavy torrents, resembling the sinuous line of a heartbeat, the hypnotic drafting of a seismograph or the truth revealing echoes of a polygraph test.

In the body of work exhibited at the show, a kind of duality imposes itself on the viewers. A harmony of opposites, a contrasted equilibrium between the machine-like perfection of geometry and the guttural violence of the scarred surface. The duality can also be characterized as a staring contest between the surgical coldness of the architectural elements, and the organic warmth of dripping and melting; a dialogue between the rationality of social dynamics and the subconscious demands of our erotic or violent impulses.

The title of the exhibition is borrowed from Curzio Malaparte's controversial novel *Kaputt*. There *culebra*, Spanish for "serpent," is a magic word capable of summoning ghosts but also a sensual and seductive one, containing both the fear and fascination for mysteries of the unknown: "If my memory does not fail me," pursued Westmann with a cruel smile, "Anthony calls Cleopatra..." "For God's sake, be silent!" shouted de Foxa. "Don't speak that word aloud. It is a terrible word that must be spoken thus in a low voice..." and scarcely moving his lips, he whispered, "Culebra. Mi culebra del antiguo Nilo."



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Davide Balliano (b. 1983, Turin) studied photography at the C.F.P Riccardo Bauer, Milan. Known for his layered minimal work that straddles the line between painting and sculpture, Balliano has exhibited extensively internationally, including solo exhibitions at Tina Kim Gallery, New York (2019 & 2017); 39 Great Jones, New York (2018); Luce Gallery, Turin (2017 & 2015); Timothy Taylor Gallery, London (2015); Room East, New York (2014); Rolando Anselmi Galerie, Berlin (2014 & 2012); Galerie Michael Rein, Paris (2013); Location One, New York (2011); The Artists Space, New York (2009). His group exhibitions include David Zwirner Gallery, New York (2015); Sean Kelly Gallery, New York (2014 & 2010); Madre Museum, Naples (2012); The Watermill Center, New York (2011 & 2009); MoMA PS1, New York (2010); Espai d'Art Contemporani de Castelló, Castellón, (2010). The artist lives and works in New York.

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