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Musée d'Art Moderne
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DAVID ALTMEJD FLUX

PRESS KIT

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Press release

DAVID ALTMEJD . FLUX

Exhibition from March 7 until May 31, 2015

Curator Marie-Noëlle Farcy

"In the space between science fiction and reality, between fantastic zoology and scientific creativity, David Altmejd accomplishes the feat of uniting the colourful magic of material, the endless fantasy of forms and the poetry of ancient artistic skills in one and the same melting pot." (Louise Déry)

In a career spanning nearly twenty years, the Canadian sculptor David Altmejd has produced a wide variety of formally and thematically complex works in surprisingly diverse materials. The artist's interest in biology and architecture combines with a fascination with metamorphosis to produce compellingly strange images reminiscent of the dreamlike or nightmarish worlds of David Cronenberg and David Lynch, or the labyrinthine narratives of Jorge Luis Borges.

Altmejd's works are characterised by a wealth of detail that lends formal momentum to individual elements, which in some instances seem to originate from within the elements themselves. Animated by inner forces and radiating a taut sense of energy, they are like snapshots of single moments within a continual process of evolution. The natural forces illustrated in his sculptures are counterbalanced by currents of energy (as epitomised by the gold chains in *The Index*). Altmejd's works unfold a disturbingly ambiguous narrative: even as they challenge viewers with unanswered questions, the sculptures validate their feelings and interpretations.

From the beginning of his career as an artist, Altmejd has been using a wide variety of forms and materials in his sculptures. The werewolf, a prominent motif in his work, appeared early on, whether in the shape of individual heads or as complex presentations on pedestals. Epoxy clay, crystals, plexiglass and mirrors are recurring materials in his work. The heads presented in this exhibition, from the years 2006 to 2015, convey Altmejd's central concern with the inherent tension in the work, the potential energy it generates, and the possibility of releasing that energy.

The Builders (2005); *The Outside, The Inside and The Praying Mantis* (2005); and *The Trail* (2006) are developments of earlier table-like pedestals. As model-type architectures, they constitute a mixture of independent microcosms and set-ups for scientific presentation. Upon closer examination, these works, which at first glance seem to be structured in an architectonic, rational manner, turn out to be rampant geometric growths and surreal labyrinths with organic, exotic elements. Altmejd overcame the horizontality of these presentation structures with a series of giant, vertical figures; although the figures are enormous in scale, Altmejd worked meticulously on each section and component independently, rather than in the context of the massive whole. With their hermetically block-like, classically inspired, or open, deconstructed character, these colossal statues inhabiting the museum's Grand Hall, like animated "landscapes" or as completely mirror-clad forms, trigger associations with golems and cyborgs. They are complemented by the series *Bodybuilders*, plaster figures which seem to embody their own production process.

The artist's more recent plexiglass works provide a spatial framework for his sculptural compositions, restraining them within a transparent cover while at the same time allowing glimpses into their inner coherencies. In *Le Guide* (2010) and *Le Souffle et la Voie* (2010), the focus is on a symmetrically structured representation of inner energy currents; in sculptures such as *The Orbit* (2012), architectonic elements, mirrors, fruits and anatomical fragments again enhance the complexity of the works. For Altmejd, the dynamic movement in these pieces, which repeatedly breaks through the inner and sometimes even outer (plexiglass) boundaries, is a sign of powerful vital energy.

David Altmejd was born in Montreal in 1974. He lives and works in New York.

Exhibition organised in collaboration with

Musée d'Art moderne de la Ville de Paris, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal

In partnership with

Embassy of Canada in Luxembourg

WORKS PRESENTED IN THE EXHIBITION

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxy, 2013

Synthetic resin, Plexiglas, steel, wood, acrylic paint, latex paint, ink
279,4 x 130,8 x 76,2 cm
Lehmann-Art Ltd.

Anand, 2015

Polyurethane foam, epoxy clay, epoxy gel, acrylic paint, resin, quartz, synthetic hair, glitter
20 x 28 x 32 cm
Courtesy the artist and Stuart Shave Modern Art Gallery, London

Man 3, 2015

Glass fibers, clothing, leather shoes, metal, resin, Epoxy clay, polystyrene, expandable foam, feathers, glass eyes, synthetic hair, latex paint, wood
205,7 x 73,1 x 73,1 cm
Courtesy the artist and Xavier Hufkens, Brussels

Blue Figure, 2015

Steel, polystyrene, expandable foam, Epoxy clay, wood, latex paint, acrylic paint
208,5 x 71 x 71 cm
Courtesy the artist and Xavier Hufkens, Brussels

Cyclops, 2015

Bronze, acrylic paint, epoxy gel
73 x 20 x 33 cm
Courtesy the artist and Stuart Shave Modern Art Gallery, London

Discipline and Punish, 2015

Polyurethane foam, epoxy clay, acrylic paint, resin, glass eyes, synthetic hair, cotton collar, steel, marble
92 x 22 x 25 cm
Collection Oliver Cromwell Lim Ong

Eye, 2015

Polyurethane foam, epoxy clay, epoxy gel, acrylic paint, synthetic hair, resin, glass, quartz, pyrite, celestite, amethyst, fluorite, steel, marble
61 x 17,2 x 15,2 cm
Courtesy Stuart Shave Modern Art, London

Figure with Cantaloupe Shoulders, 2013

Epoxy clay, synthetic hair, dyed resin, metal, steel, quartz, acrylic paint, coconut, foam, wood, aluminium wire
236,2 x 90,2 x 71,1 cm
Privat collection
Courtesy Xavier Hufkens, Brussels

January, 2008

Polystyrene, expandable foam, epoxy resin, epoxy gel, plaster, wire, mirror, glass, synthetic hair, quartz, acrylic paint, latex paint, spray paint, glass beads, glass eyes, glitter, wood
209 x 72 x 72 cm
The Sylvie Fleming Collection, London

La Chambre d'hôte, 2010

Plexiglas, thread, acrylic paint, acrylic gel
76,8 x 61 x 61 cm
Collection Van Lierde
Courtesy Xavier Hufkens, Brussels

Le Guide, 2010

Plexiglas, chain, metal wire, thread, acrylic paint, epoxy clay, acrylic gel
124,5 x 106,7 x 228,6 cm
Courtesy Xavier Hufkens, Brussels

Le Souffle et la Voie, 2010

Plexiglas, metal chain, metal wire, thread, acrylic paint, epoxy resin, acrylic gel, ink
168 x 208 x 345 cm
Privat collection
Courtesy Xavier Hufkens, Brussels

Son 3, 2014

Polystyrene, polyurethane foam, epoxy clay, wood, steel, acrylic paint
182,9 x 71,1 x 71,1 cm
Courtesy Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York

The Architect, 2007

Wood, mirror, glue
442 x 121,9 x 76,2 cm
Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels

The Astronomer, 2007

Wood, mirror, glue
466,1 x 193 x 137,2 cm
Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels

The Builders, 2005

Plexiglas, mirror, epoxy resin, synthetic foam, synthetic hair, synthetic flowers, crystals, feathers, acrylic paint, wood
183 x 193 x 259 cm
Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels

The Center, 2008

Wood, foam, epoxy clay, resin, horse hair, metal wire, paint, mirror, glass beads, plaster, glue, feather, glass eyes
383,5 x 203,2 x 142,2 cm
Privat collection, Oslo

The Doctor, 2007

Wood, mirror, latex paint, glue
452,1 x 416,6 x 340,4 cm
Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels

The Giant, 2006

Expandable foam, resin epoxy, synthetic hair, glass, acrylic paint, taxidermy squirrels, wood
365,8 x 152,4 x 111,8 cm
Privat collection

The Hunter, 2007

Wood, mirror, epoxy clay, acrylic paint, horse hair
383,5 x 125,7 x 104,1 cm
Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels

The Minor, 2007

Wood, mirror, epoxy clay, paint
375,9 x 137,2 x 101,6 cm
Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels

The Orbit, 2012

Plexiglas, mirror, chain, metal wire, thread, acrylic paint, epoxy gel, epoxy resin, acrylic gel, resin, synthetic hair, glass eyes, plaster, coconut shells
241,3 x 662,3 x 188 cm
Collection Janne and Carl Christian Aegidius
Deposit 2013 – Collection Mudam Luxembourg

The Outside, The Inside and The Praying Mantis, 2005

Wood, latex paint, plaster, synthetic hair, epoxy clay, mirror, Plexiglas, glue, wire, synthetic flowers, jewelry, chains, glitter, minerals, quail eggs, lighting system, ink
170,2 x 152,4 x 213,4 cm
Lehmann-Art Ltd.

The Thinker, 2007

Wood, mirror, glue
309,9 x 91,4 x 91,4 cm
Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels

The Trail, 2006

Wood, glass, Plexiglas, lighting system, leather, synthetic branches, acorns, pine cones, polystyrene, expandable foam, Epoxy resin, acrylic paint, latex paint, synthetic hair, chain, quail eggs, ink, jewelry, butt plug
305 x 203 x 279 cm
Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels

Untitled, 2005

Plexiglas, gold chain
40,6 x 50,8 x 30,5 cm
Privat collection, Brussels
Courtesy Xavier Hufkens, Brussels

Untitled, 2006

Foam, synthetic hair, epoxy clay, paint, resin, amethyst, quartz, glitter
27,9 x 25,4 x 24,1 cm
Tiago Ltd. The Tiqui Atencio Collection

Untitled, 2008

Epoxy clay, foam, quartz, calcite, malaquite, amethyst, sulfur, pyrite, synthetic hair, acrylic gel, glass eyes, beads, acrylic paint
15,2 x 30,5 x 22,9 cm
Privat collection, Belgium

Untitled, 2009

Foam, epoxy clay, acrylic paint, minerals, synthetic hair
17,8 x 20,3 x 30,5 cm
Uziyel Collection, London

Untitled, 2011

Epoxy clay, plaster, glass eyes, wire, acrylic paint, resin, assorted minerals (quartz and malaquite), fabric
31,8 x 25,4 x 33 cm
Collection Amrita Jhaveri

Untitled, 2014

Polyurethane foam, epoxy clay, epoxy gel, synthetic hair, glass eyes, synthetic flowers, acrylic paint, resin
31,8 x 25,4 x 33 cm
Courtesy Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York

Untitled 8 (Bodybuilders), 2013

Plaster, polystyrene, expandable foam, canvas, latex paint, wood
188 x 62,2 x 58,4 cm
Privat collection
Courtesy Xavier Hufkens, Brussels

Untitled 13 (Guides), 2013

Wood, mirror, glazed ceramic, acrylic paint, thread, Plexiglas, steel
185,4 x 104,1 x 61 cm
Courtesy the artist and Xavier Hufkens, Brussels

Untitled 15 (Guides), 2013

Wood, mirror, glazed ceramic, thread, steel, Plexiglas, graphite, latex paint, glue
185,4 x 58,4 x 43,2 cm
Courtesy the artist and Xavier Hufkens, Brussels

Untitled 8 (Rabbit Holes), 2014

Polyurethane foam, epoxy clay, epoxy gel, synthetic hair, quartz, glass, resin, acrylic paint
33 x 17,8 x 28 cm
Collection Laurent Dreyfus, Paris

Untitled 1 (Spectres), 2013

Plexiglas, assorted minerals, resin, expandable foam, epoxy clay, porcelain, ceramic, refractory ceramic
86,4 x 113,7 x 63,5 cm
Courtesy the artist and Xavier Hufkens, Brussels

Untitled 11 (The Watchers), 2014

Plaster, canvas, steel, polyurethane foam, wood
203,2 x 106,7 x 101,6 cm
Courtesy the artist and Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York

Untitled 12 (The Watchers), 2014

Plaster, canvas, steel, polyurethane foam, wood
193 x 106,7 x 71,2 cm
Courtesy the artist and Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York

Untitled 13 (The Watchers), 2015

Steel, polystyrene, expandable foam, jute screen, plaster, latex paint, wood
228,6 x 122 x 91,5 cm
Courtesy the artist and Xavier Hufkens, Brussels



Views of the exhibition *David Altmejd . Flux*, Mudam Luxembourg
© Photos: Rémi Villaggi / Mudam Luxembourg



David Altmejd, *The Orbit*, 2012
Janne and Carl Christian Aegidius Collection, deposit Collection Mudam Luxembourg
© Photos: Tim Safranek Photographics

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Opening hours

Wednesday - Friday: 11 am - 8 pm
Saturday - Monday: 11 am - 6 pm
Public holidays: 11 am - 6 pm
Closed on Tuesday and on 25.12.2014

Entrance fee

Adults	7 €
Under 26 years old, groups	5 €
Mudami card (valid 1 year for 2 persons)	50 €
Under 21 years old	free
Students under 26 years old	free
Wednesday, 6 pm - 8 pm	free

Images

Available on request

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