

THOMAS DANE GALLERY

Alexandre da Cunha

“ALEXANDRE DA CUNHA (BRAZIL) Between modernism and formalism,” *The Latin American Journal*, 12th March 2015



Alexandre Da Cunha. Alexandre da Cunha Public Sculptures, 2009-2014
Concrete pipe and foam. Image: Courtesy of Luisa Strina Gallery

Alexandre Da Cunha, is currently one of the most important Brazilian contemporary artists. Born in Rio de Janeiro has been recognized since 1998 with prizes and artistic residences in his native country as well as in the United States and England. He is not the typical maker, despite the fact he operates within a sculptural field of overtly modernist tendencies. The artist intervenes into the everyday, displacing specific objects and entering them into an exhibitory realm, reorienting them as artworks.

The nature of this appropriative act creates a space in which objects oscillate between strange tensions, bringing the paradoxes of contemporary art into plain sight. In da Cunha's exploratory practice, a traditional method of figurative sculpture making is confused with found objects. His inventions emerge from a cross reading of Brazil's neo-concrete movement and the contradictions of modernist architectural cities like Rio de Janeiro. The precariousness of urban design, which is rooted in the necessity of re-purposing found materials, is met by the minimal aesthetics of ubiquitous mass-produced objects. The peculiarity of his work is in the collection of everyday objects of various kinds, with which creates a poetic object environment that fosters an ongoing dialogue between the materials used, making objects with significant aesthetic and conceptual content related to art, specifically with reference to modernism.

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Alexandre da Cunha Kentucky (Drop), 2013 Mop heads, metal fittings. Image taken from crgallery.com

Under a minimalist touch, in addition to the amounts of objects displayed. Predominantly using white, cuttlefish and natural colors, the artist often also makes intentionally forms to the central ideas of each project. Accompanied of all kinds of forms resulting from the combination of found objects, his compositions are based on the immediate identification of the object, and then invite the viewer in his own imaginary decomposition.



Alexandre da Cunha Mix (Americana), 2013 Found cement mixer and wooden blocks. Image taken from crgallery.com

Its projects also play their own songs formalism that can be made from any material from bath mats, industrial tools, remnants of trucks, design objects and in pitting, in short everything that the artist considers may since become more essential procedural record of the history of Western art

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Bump VI 2015 linho, escova e tela (linen, brush and canvas)
60 x 60 x 4 cm.jpg

Alexandre Da Cunha (Brazil, 1969) Lives and works in London. He received studies at the Fundacao Armando Alvares Penteado-FAAP, Sao Paulo, Brazil, Royal Collegue of Art and Chelsea College of Art, both in London, England. He has presented solo exhibitions in galleries and international art fairs since 1998 in places like Galeria Luisa Strina (Sao Paulo, Brazil), Vilma Gold Gallery (London), Museu da Pampulha Art (Belo Horizonte, Brazil), Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts of San Francisco, NAK Neuer Aachener Kunstverein (Germany), Centre d'Art Contemporain (Saint Nazaire, France), Thomas Dane Gallery (London), Kentucky Pied de Poule, CRG Gallery (New York), Sommer & Kohl (Germany) and FRIEZE (New York) show.

In addition, his works are part of public collecoesnes recognized as Tate Modern (London), Museu de Arte da Pampulha (Belo Horizontre, Brazil), CACI-Centre for Contemporary Art Inhotin, CIFOs-Cisneros Collection (Miami, USA), Ellipse Foundation Contemporary Art Collection (New York, USA), Zabłudowicz Collection (London), Pinacoteca do Estado de Sao Paulo (Brazil).

<http://www.latinamericanartjournal.com/alexandre-da-cunha-between-modernism-and-formalism/> AdC