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SKOYA ASEMAT-TESSANDIER

BORN 1986 IN PARIS, FRANCE. LIVES AND WORKS IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS.

BIOGRAPHY

SKOYA LIVED THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS AT AN EXPEDITIOUS PACE, LEARNING AND GAINING LIFE EXPERIENCES ALONG THE WAY. HE DROPPED OUT OF SAN FRANCISCO ART INSTITUTE (SFAI) TO JOIN CENTRAL SAINT MARTINS (CSM), WHICH HE LEFT TO EXPERIENCE LIVING IN TOKYO. HE TRAVELED BACK TO EUROPE BY THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY. HE STUDIED PRINTMAKING AT THE SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS (SVA) IN NEW YORK, BEFORE LIVING IN AMSTERDAM FOR A COUPLE YEARS. CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND THE MULTIPLE WAYS IN WHICH IDEAS, LANGUAGES, BODIES AND EVEN EVERYDAY ITEMS CIRCULATE, HAVE SHAPED HIS ARTISTIC INFLUENCES AND BROADENED HIS REPERTOIRE.

BORN IN PARIS (FRANCE) AND BASED IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS, SKOYA ASEMAT-TESSANDIER (B.1986) IS KNOWN FOR AN IMMERSIVE AND ITINERANT PRACTICE THAT ENCOMPASSES PAINTINGS, WORKS ON PAPER, SCULPTURES, VIDEOS, LIVE PERFORMANCES, BUILT-IN-SCENARIOS AND INSTALLATIONS.

IN HIS EARLY 20S SKOYA BEGAN HIS STUDY OF ALCHEMY, AMONG A SET OF ESOTERIC SPIRITUAL TEACHINGS, WHICH PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN HIS BELIEFS. THE COMBINATION OF ALCHEMY AND MYSTICISM ASSOCIATED WITH IT, BECAME QUITE INFLUENTIAL IN HIS EVOLVING LINE OF WORK.

THROUGH ALCHEMY, AS THE NAME GIVEN IN LATIN EUROPE IN THE 12TH CENTURY TO AN ASPECT OF THOUGHT THAT CORRESPONDS TO ASTROLOGY, WHICH IS APPARENTLY AN OLDER TRADITION. BOTH REPRESENT ATTEMPTS TO DISCOVER THE RELATIONSHIP OF MAN TO THE COSMOS AND TO EXPLOIT THAT RELATIONSHIP, CAPTURING THE SUSPENSION IN SPACE TO QUESTION PHYSICAL EXISTENCE, POSITION AND ROLE WITHIN THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

"SKOYA'S WORK REFLECTS ON THE COMPLEX RELATION BETWEEN ARTIST AND MODEL IN HISTORY, BUT SEEKS ALSO TO FOMENT NEW SYMBOLS FOR OUR TIME. HIS PROCESS IS IMBUED WITH A MYSTICISM THAT PARALLELS THE WORK OF ARTIST YVES KLEIN, CREATING ALCHEMICAL RELATIONSHIP TO PAINTED MATTER, BUT ALSO USING THE HUMAN FIGURE AS ITS INSCRIPTIONAL TOOL."
— S.L

TAKEN AS A WHOLE, HIS BODY OF WORK DEMONSTRATES A SUSTAINED EMPHASIS ON THE NOTION OF ETHEREAL SPACE AND TIME, AS THE INDEFINITE CONTINUED PROGRESS OF EXISTENCE AND HOW BOTH, INCREASINGLY INTERMINGLE, FROM EVENTS IN THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE REGARDED AS A WHOLE.

SKOYA ASEMAT-TESSANDIER EXAMINES THE TIGHTNESS BETWEEN FLUIDITY AND STASIS, THE ABJECT AND THE PRISTINE. IN SEARCH OF SECRET WISDOM, TO DISCOVER A CURE FOR DISEASE AND A WAY OF EXTENDING LIFE.

SKOYA'S WORK CONVEYS A NUANCED UNDERSTANDING OF ALCHEMY AND MYSTICISM, THE CONDITIONS OF GLOBALIZATION, ITS ATTENDANT STATE OF TIME, WHILE MAINTAINING THE UNIVERSALITY OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE.

"LIKE A DREAM, THESE SHADOWS RECALL PAST IMAGES, IMPRESSED GESTURES AND POSITIONS OF THE FEMALE BODY FOUND IN THE PAINTINGS OF FRENCH NINETEENTH-CENTURY ARTISTS LIKE MANET AND COURBET THAT NOW INHABIT THE COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS. (...) FLEETING DREAMERS BURSTING WITH VIVACITY. THEY ARE GHOSTLY TRACES THAT SEEM ABOUT TO DISAPPEAR, BUT WHOSE IMAGES HAUNTS OUR MIND AND NEVER CEASES TO CALL US BACK." — S.L

BACK IN PARIS, HIS BIRTH TOWN, SKOYA ASEMAT-TESSANDIER WAS INVITED TO JOIN THE CITÉ DES ARTS ARTISTIC RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM, WHICH CULMINATED IN HIS NOMINATION AS A LAUREATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AGAINST RACISM AND ANTI-SEMITISM (LICRA) JEAN PIERRE-BLOCH AWARD.

SKOYA'S WORKS HAVE BEEN SHOWN IN PARIS, NEW YORK, SAN-FRANCISCO, TOKYO, AMSTERDAM, LISBON AND BARCELONA. HIS WORKS ARE NOW PART OF PRIVATE COLLECTIONS IN EUROPE, USA AND ASIA.

SKOYA ASEMAT-TESSANDIER IS CURRENTLY BASED IN EUROPE.