



MANOU ART PRESS RELEASE – September 07, 2017

Artist turns Nazi symbols of hate into pro-diversity installation

Contemporary artist Manou Marzban latest work is a powerful anti-fascist statement using eighteen authentic World War II Nazi helmets painted in 'rainbow' colours and street art inspired graphics.

The installation, called “Diversity Instead of Fascism”, will be available for view November 16th to 17th at Gallery Different, 14 Percy Street, London W1T 1DR. The artist created the installation as a reminder of dangers associated with far-right and populist ideology clashing with diversity and individuality.

“These eighteen helmets emit a heavy vibe. When you put them in a group – it is even more intense. You still feel the historical context but you also feel that time has moved on, that diversity is inevitable” comments Manou. “History has a tendency to repeat itself. How we, as people, react to this tendency is solely based on what, if anything, we have learnt from history” he adds.

Each helmet is individually hand painted, using bright acrylics, mostly in rainbow colours. Florescent and ‘glow in the dark’ paints were used on some helmets. Others have street art and graffiti elements. A layer of resin completes the individually signed and numbered pieces. The 18 helmets come with identical custom-made iron stands. Individually, or collectively, they form a powerful image with an equally powerful message.

“I used helmets from the Army, Luftschutz, German Fire Protection and Third Reich Police. Some were in good condition others were dented and well worn. What will captivate people is the fact they are real, and you can almost feel the history ooze out between the vibrant colours” remarks Manou.

“The aim was never to erase or distract from the historical context that is attached to these helmets. It was to reinforce the message that the dangers of fascism still exist. And that these dangers can be overcome through tolerance, compassion and acceptance. Each one of these helmets has been reborn. Morphing from dark symbols of hate to colourful objects of art reflecting the world we live in today” he concludes.

Manou’s art has gained global attention in the past five years and he is deemed as one of Iran’s leading European based contemporary artists. Recent press has called his work, “a whirlwind of chaotic energy” (Al Arte Magazine, 2015), and “engaging and intriguing, never too sad or too serious” (Huffington Post, 2014). Le Monde mentioned him as the “The Persian Banksy” in 2013. An interview with US media in 2012 stated “his character is so large, so generous, and so vibrant that people find themselves happy in his company. His enthusiasm is contagious” (PBS America, 2012).

The exposition will run from November 16th to 17th, 2017 at Gallery Different, London



About the artist:

Manou is from Iranian and Georgian origins. Born in Geneva, he traveled throughout his childhood due to his fathers' role as a diplomat. He excelled at art, but studied film in university and eventually got an MBA. Corporate life followed with Microsoft. By 2010 Manou had started to create unique pieces that were getting attention in France with private collectors. Manou's first series of works, called 'Streaks', got instant recognition for the bright use of acrylics, bright colors and clever use of spectrum changing lights to showcase the works. Manou's art is infused with symbols from popular culture as well as his native country of Iran. Manou reinvents Persian and other iconic imagery by injecting them with a fresh pop culture take, making Manou's work exude energy and provocation. His works vary from abstract to pop to portraits to installation. Through his vibrant color building, Manou engages with his audience and tells a story. Each canvas – or in some cases table tennis tables, helmets, old TVs, furniture – has a myriad of narratives interwoven to reflect the artists' strong opinions on history, politics and popular culture.

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The artist:



About Gallery Different

Located in the heart of Fitzrovia, London, Gallery DIFFERENT presents contemporary painting, sculpture, drawing, print, photography and mixed media from BRITISH and INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS. As well as presenting a dynamic schedule of exhibitions and events, DIFFERENT collaborates with other galleries worldwide to promote and curate exhibitions for its artists. Contact: +44(0)207 637 3775 - Email: info@gallerydifferent.co.uk

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