

Galerie Onrust: Veron Urdarianu

Gallery hours: Wednesday through Saturday, 1-6 pm.
Sunday November 1, 2-5 pm.

From 10 October to 14 November 2009 an exhibition of paintings by Veron Urdarianu will be held at Galerie Onrust.

Urdarianu (Bucharest 1951) came to the Netherlands from Romania during the early 1970s and has been living and working in Amsterdam since then. Initially he produced sculptures, and about ten years ago he started painting. Recently painting has gained increasing importance to him as a medium. At the end of 2004 the Haags Gemeentemuseum dedicated an exhibition to his sculptures and painting. The presentation at Galerie Onrust—his first in five years—focuses on paintings from the past ten years.

Veron Urdarianu is a master of suggestion. In his paintings he very often he makes use of existing images, which he provides with a new context. Simple motifs such as a tomato-red cableway, two dogs copulating, a fallen jockey or a Napoleonic soldier become fraught with meaning in his work.

The perspective and the minor differentiations of dim color take his paintings away from the here and now, and give them the appearance of having ‘dropped out of time’. The melancholy atmosphere that Urdarianu’s paintings sometimes exude is offset by a tinge of humor and sense of the absurd.

Urdarianu often experiments with materials uncommon to painting. The subtle relief that gives his paintings a unusual texture came about through the use of tape heated with fiberglass. Sometimes he stretches a thin layer of latex across a painted canvas; this gives the image the look of an old photograph. Urdarianu’s background as a sculptor is echoed in that sensitivity to the material quality, his talent as a storyteller in the ambiguity of the image. Avoiding harsh contrasts and shouting colors, Urdarianu approaches his work cautiously and seeks the subtlety of hushed hues to keep the mystery of his stories alive.

Translation: Beth O'Brien



Veron Urdarianu, *Horseman*, 2009
Oil on canvas, 48 x 57 cm



Veron Urdarianu, *Apparition 2*, 2007
Oil on canvas, 150 x 250 cm