

Simon Laureyns

Skinny Dipping

Opening Saturday June 30th, 6 pm

Until September 29rd

From Thursday to Saturday from 3 pm to 7 pm and by appointment

A+B Gallery is glad to welcome the second personal exhibition of Simon Laureyns, *Skinny Dipping*.

After the series *Pooltable painting*, of the *Billboard painting* and some pieces of the sculptural work *Memory Lane* have been exhibited, it's now the turn of the series *Shelter painting*, portions of camping tents structured, the last nomadic element of the contemporary urbanised society.

The series *Shelter painting*, exhibited for the first time at #fuocoapaesaggio (Forte di Monte Ricco, Pieve di Cadore, IT), wants to highlight the importance of the social organisation, dictated by now stereotyped rules which throughout the centuries had defined the individual and innate freedom of the human being.

The tent, the identificative element, it's the mobile house par excellence, was born from the necessity of the transfer of the nomadic communities. Typical of the non-settling populations that had to move from one place to another to look for food according to the season, this residence has then been substituted by new urban centres in evolution, when men had decided to stay for a long time in an area creating new social and civic rules.

With *Shelter painting*, the artist identifies the contraposition that man instinctively has with the social rules he has created himself, which made him sedentary, towards the need and the desire to reconquer a freedom he has rejected for himself.

It's as if Simon Laureyns, deciding to section and to frame the textile, is the first to try, knowingly, to reconquer the initial freedom, as man tries to do when he decides to go bak to modern nomadism and to suspend social rules.

And it's in the title -of the second personal exhibition of Simon Laureyns at A+B Gallery- *Skinny Dipping* where we can fully catch the meaning of the artist's action. The tent, born with the aim of protection and shelter, has always been a safe place where we can undress from any social disguise, space-shelter where we can return primordial. The tent, as an

intimate place but also as a skin from which we can't strip, because it's the place of truth and unconditional freedom.

The series *Shelter painting* reflects the will of the man to have a sedentariety with precise social rules and an organisation, most of the times static, which precludes the original instincts of independence, freedom and truth.

Simon Laureyns was born in Ghent (Belgium, 1979) where he graduated in Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts of KASK.

Personal exhibitions: 2017 "Six Million Ways to Die", A+B Gallery, Brescia, IT; 2015 "Bellos Horizontes", LE CABANON/VOSSELARE PUT, Deinze, B; 2014 "Cover up the grey", ROSSI CONTEMPORARY, Bruxelles, B.

Collective exhibition: 2018 "ZERO" group show with Daniel Buren and Renaud Regnery, Galerie Jérôme Pauchant, Parigi, FR; 2017 "Memories of an elephant" group show with Tamina Amadyar, Pierre Knop and Mathias Malling Mortensen, Kunsthau, Essen, D; "Silent, genius at work!" duo show with Manor Grunewalld, GALERIE JEROME PAUCHANT, Paris, FR; "What about the color pink, do you like pink?", GEUKENS & DE VIL GALLERY, Knobbe, BE; 2016 "(Idéale) Géographie", une introduction, curated by Oliver Kosta-Théfaine, NOIRE GALLERY, Torino, IT; "Slash" curated by Gabriele Tosi, A+B GALLERY, Brescia, IT; Simon Laureyns invites Xavier Mary, GEUKENS & DE VIL GALLERY, Knobbe, BE; 2015 "Even a Birch can be Real" curated by Gabriele Tosi, A+B GALLERY, Brescia, IT; "Aoteroa, Loods 12", WETTEREN, B. INCUBATE, Schowburg, Tilburg, N; "(Idéale) Géographie", LE MOULIN DU ROC (CAC), Niort, F; "Volumes", BERTHOLD POTT GALLER, Cologne, G; 2014 "Crox 479 Based Painting", CROXHAPOX, Ghent, B; "Neighbours Vol. 1", STUDIO MANOR GRUNWALD, Ghent, B; "The Young Ones", SKI, Ghent, B.