

MIKELIS FIŠERS (LV, 1970)

www.fisers.lv

Mikelis Fišers is a Latvian contemporary artist who was born in 1970. He studied the arts of design (BA, 1988) and painting (MA, 1995). He creates paintings, installations, sculptures, video and stage design. His work was featured in several exhibitions at key galleries and museums, including the Latvian National Museum of Art, the Latvian Pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennial (2017), the Cable Factory in Finland (2015) and more. In 2015 he was the winner of the famous Purvītis Prize. He had various solo exhibitions: Blamescapes and Superflattening at the Art Station "Dubulti" in autumn 2018 (LV). Fišers created the scenography for the opera Spēlēju, dancoju (I Played and Danced) at the Latvian National Opera, which premiered in September 2019. His works will also be part of the Second Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art (RIBOCA2), which will take place in the summer of 2020.

Since his intervention in Venice he is one of the brightest and most peculiar figures in today's Latvian art scene. Fišers has remained true to his initial idea that formal art does not interest him; a work of art must be a medium that carries a certain narrative and content. It is precisely this content that has become one of the most striking features of Fišers' artistic identity: the characters and stories that emerge from his interlacing mixture of science fiction and conspiracy theories leave viewers of his art in states ranging from confusion to delight and laughter. For Fišers the human worries and anxieties are highlights - triggers that we need to cherish and research. 'It's the thing that feeds us, drives us', quoting the artist. His creative output is idiosyncratic, building on an ironic, insubordinate to institutional keys, and ambiguous energie. He is questioning the world, the others and himself.

ABOUT THE WORK

'Speaker From the Third Planets Panhandle for Alms at the Two-Speed Civ. Summit' (2017)

21.0cm x 29.5cm x 2.5cm

European oak, polished black paint, carving

Fišers presented an amazing scenery under the title *What Can Go Wrong* (2017)

at the Latvian Pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale. The exhibition was build around 30 beautiful pillars, each carrying a black sculpted stone within. The stones had a weird consistency and could not be touched by the audience. Each black stone had carvings representing human figures in interaction with scientists, aliens, supernatural beings and somewhat religious beings.

Fišers intention was to create a confusing new narrative were conspiracy theories go hand in hand with alternative facts, urban legends and superstition. The work on display at the '404 - Page not Found' exhibition is an original black stone from one of the 30 columns at the Biennial. The artists claims some sort of authority, building on scientific 'facts' but also on some sort of underlying fear. Fišers is not afraid to dive in Jung's world of symbols and unconscious associations: "encountering oneself is one of the most important things that a person avoids as long he can project everything negative outwardly.". The narrative line of the works created for the *What Can Go Wrong* - series will be based on Fišers' characteristic interplay between modifications of the genre of science fiction and the paradoxes of social existence, rooted in pessimistic moral philosophy and unflattering to a thinking being.