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Christian Renonciat | Matter

March 11 – April 4, 2017

Opens at Waltman Ortega Fine Art on March 11, 2017



MIAMI (Mar. 11) - Waltman Ortega Fine Art presents "Matter", a solo exhibition of works by Christian Renonciat. The show consists of hand-carved wood sculptures that depict ordinary every-day objects made of different materials such as tarps, blankets, pieces of torn cardboard, envelopes.. It is their material qualities – that serve Renonciat as an inspiration for his work. The artist masterfully carves wood to mimics substances such as plastic, paper, or fabric - as a meditation on the material qualities of simple surfaces.

The exhibition opens to the public on March 11 and remains on view through April 4th. A private reception is held on March 18 from 5-9 p.m. RSVP to info@waltmanortega.com.



Christian Renonciat differentiates himself from other sculptors through his approach: what he tries to find is not so much the realism of the forms, but that of the matter. He does not refer to any real paper or cardboard to replicate as sculpture. Instead, the artist coaxes the wood in a painstaking process guided only by his tactile memory of common materials. The works are culmination of a long conversation between the artist and piece of ayous or poplar wood and thus speak to our own memories of how objects should feel and behave: sheets folding, the paper crumpling and tearing, the smell and touch of the satin trim of a blanket.

The sounds and smells of the materials mean something to Renonciat: he mentions the wrinkling, rustling, and rippling of the paper; the icy crackling of plastic manipulation; and the “happy fumes” of alcohol and lacquer vapors involved with varnishing — all contributing to the overall experience of creation. “I do not conjure an image to be appreciated by the mind,” Renonciat states, “but matter, consistency, surface, texture, that I set before the body and its senses, directly, without mediation. In a way, I am not providing an interpretation of what is presented, but revealing what is.” Surfaces take on a new meaning as Renonciat orchestrates a symphony of common materials and sensual experience introduced

A graduate of the University of Sorbonne, Christian Renonciat has exhibited his works at various institutions worldwide such as Center of Contemporary Art of Matmut, the Museum of Modern Art of Dubrovnik and the Museum of Fine Art of Reims. His most notable commissioned works include a public monument for the city Issy-les-Moulineaux and La Rochelle in France and a collaborative sculpture with the Hermès Company.

