

Stoneflesh Aura

Raphael Danke



Norma Mangione Gallery is pleased to present *Stoneflesh Aura*, the third Raphael Danke solo exhibition held at the gallery.

April 28 –
June 6, 2015

All works on show stem from the artist's quest to reveal links and similarities between the elements of "stone" and "flesh" and, in a broader sense, between lifeless objects and live subjects, life and death, body and architecture, ever-present parallels in Danke's work.

Mohrenstrasse, an 8-mm single-frame digital film, is a fragmented view of the walls in the eponymous subway station in Berlin, which was rebuilt in 1950 and is noted for its German red stone, also called "blood-marble"; legend has it that these particular marbles used to belong to the Reichskanzlei, Adolf Hitler's office. The film is projected on an Italian marble table, where the superimposed image of the red stone seems to metamorphose into flesh; the white table has been overthrown, scattering around the remains of a dinner for two, and thus magnifying the film's ambiguity.

The gallery space hosts as well the installation of three canvases, on which the artist has placed hand-modelled concrete fragments combined with paper collages bearing images of meat. On the frames are PETA stickers that serve as titles for the various works.

In the drawings, mysterious abstract shapes realised with the frottage technique are silhouetted against butcher's paper.

Finally, the two sculptures in marble dust are of the kind used as garden ornaments, that the artist has dissected so as to cut away some body parts and only keep the ones covered by garments: a frequent exercise for Danke, that conjures up the human shape through shreds and remnants, presence through absence.

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Tue-Sat: 3.30-7.30 pm
or by appointment