

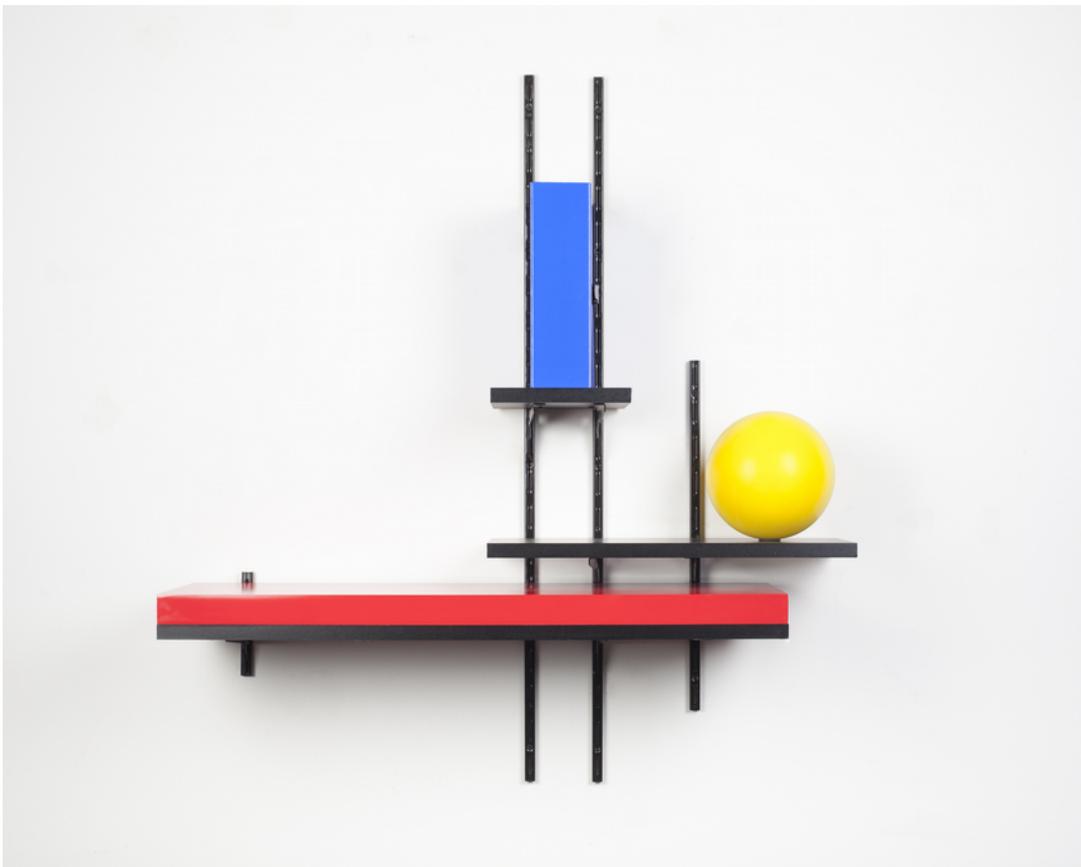
MARUANI MERCIER

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Mathieu Mercier

Drum and Bass

6 April – 5 May 2019
Kustlaan 90, Knokke



Mathieu Mercier, *Drum and Bass MP*, 2002-2019, mixed media, 100 x 91,7 x 29 cm

The series *Drum & Bass* echoes an earlier set of works by Mathieu Mercier titled *Still Untitled*. These pieces, made from boards found in the street and covered with adhesive, present a more or less open interpretation of a mondrianesque grid. The goal is, through the use of scraps, to make a fin de siècle statement on concepts of modernity developed by the avant-gardes.

Reflecting this pattern, the *Drum & Bass* series offers an assembly of red, yellow and blue industrial objects arranged on a composition of standard black rack racks.

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The concept behind the series was born in New York in 2002, during a stay intended for the preparation of an exhibition. Spending more time discovering the city than working, an instant idea appeared to Mercier within the enormous surface of consumption that is Manhattan today. The artist naturally compared the object's newly acquired symbolic place which was previously occupied by architecture.

The title of the series, *Drum & Bass*, is a reminder of the series of *Boogie Woogie*, directed by Piet Mondrian in New York, combining the grid of urbanism with the rhythm of music. Titling his artworks with the name of a musical genre that he likes, Mercier reinforces a parallel that can be established between the practice of a DJ and the assembly pre-existing objects.

This series also develops a recurring element in Mercier's work, that of the object turning into abstraction.

Finally, *Drum & Bass* allows Mercier to bring together two institutions, the museum and the supermarket, with the ambition to reach a total art form where the function and the symbol are united.

Having intensively worked on the series between 2002 and 2005, Mercier continues to imagine new structures depending on the objects colored in primary colors that he encounters to this day.

Biography

Mathieu Mercier is a contemporary French conceptual artist who uses everyday objects to explore the boundaries between functionality and artistic purposelessness. His work investigates key tropes of Modern art and design, bridging media and styles in its interrogation of utopian movements such as De Stijl and Russian Constructivism, all while engaging mass-produced consumer objects. Mercier questions the larger cultural context within which these objects exist, often referencing avant-garde artists such as Marcel Duchamp and Piet Mondrian.

Born in 1970 in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, France, Mercier went on to study at the École nationale supérieure d'art in Bourges, among other institutions. He has exhibited at many major museums around the world, including solo shows the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, FRAC in Bourgogne, Centre d'Art Contemporain d'Ivry, and the Kunsthalle Nürnberg, amongst others. In 2003, Mercier was honored with the prestigious Marcel Duchamp award.

He lives and works in Paris, France.

The artist is available for interviews.

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***Drum and Bass opens on 6 April and runs until 5 May 2019
at MARUANI MERCIER, Kustlaan 90, Knokke.***