



CAPTALOONA ART MADRID



Giorgio Solimine

Captaloona Art, C. de Andrés Mellado, 55, 28015 Madrid, Spagna

Tel: +34 669 61 62 20, captaloona@gmail.com

Tom Vanhauwaert deep Minimalism

The Belgian artist Tom Vanhauwaert, born in the town of Waregem, was attracted to art since childhood, gaining his first recognitions in 2015. Before that, he worked as a carpenter. His professional past, as stated by himself, contextualise him in his artistic present:

“I love to work with my hands. It wasn’t unexpected at all that I would start being creative in the artistic world. [...] My goal: to spread the message hidden in my work. My feelings are reflected in my work. There are no limits in colours and shapes, expression is freedom. Behind each object there’s a message, a story, an emotion, an energy... each piece starts from a feeling parallel to life experiences.”



image 1 - Tom Vanhauwaert.

These words are a summary of his work and help us penetrate the nature of his work. His profession allowed him to understand that his hands were not made just to fabricate but to create as well. His works, that will be on display at the Captaloon Art space beginning April 15, thanks to Loona Contemporary’s art direction (of Claudio Fiorentini), belong to the world of Minimalism, and use wood as main material, but also marble and Plexiglas. This leads us back to his professional experience and the mastery achieved in modeling the materials. These works, with respect to what he would have realized as a carpenter, have a fundamental aspect: they are and will always be material, work and manufacture of shapes, but come with a meaning, a goal and a quest for expression.

Tom Vanhauwaert, through his minimalist language and according with what we read in his word, grants us a subjective view of life, of existence and the deep characterizing the human being. This depth is quite complex and finds a representation rationalized, articulate, orderly but lively with bright and strong colors, almost like pop art. The purpose of these works, as the artist states, is to “spread the message”, to share emotions, participate to life, the life that Tom Vanhauwaert defines as a highspeed train, a journey rich with experiences. The will to use the minimalist language to express life complexity springs from the intention to show the beauty and the joy that can be found in life through the simple and humble things that abound in it, but usually go unnoticed.

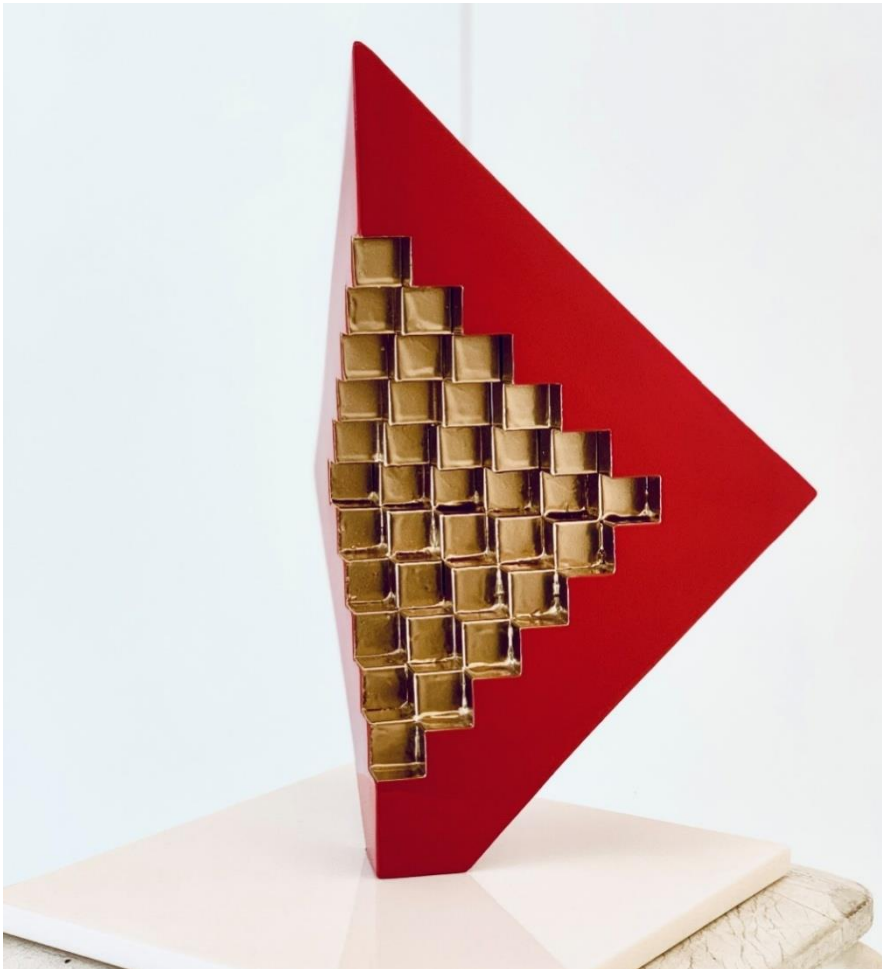


Image 2 – Two Worlds, Tom Vanhauwaert, 100x100cm, wood

On the exhibition catalog cover we see the piece “Two World” (fig.2), year 2023, which the author complements with the following words:

“Two Worlds. Together they dance...One bound by lines and rules. The other, where hearts and dreams ignite.”¹

¹<https://www.tomvanhauwaert.com/>

This citation refers to the presence of a “rigid” component, rational and studied, limited, precisely, by lines and rules, in opposition to dreams and heart that animate it, and are our “self” the most irrational part of us. In *Two Worlds*, both aspects live together, intertwine, come together in a way apparently in contrast but deeply complementary. The sculpture, as the artist himself has detailed, symbolizes a heart o, better, is the section of a heart. This symbol is manifest by the presence of the color red, which frequently brings back to the heart, to love, but contains a golden nucleus made of numerous golden squares joined together. This is, as the artist says, the representation of a heart enriched by the love for oneself and the love for others.

According to Tom Vanhauwaert emotions, ideas, feelings and values are the most important elements that should impregnate the artwork. There is no interest for material and superficial goods, or fleeting happiness. It follows that the “gold” is purely symbolic, what’s important in life is represented by a color, an element of high material value, stripped of that characteristic.

Image 3 The connection3



Along these sculptures we find the wall artworks *Kinetic* and *The connections 3* (Fig. 3). *Kinetic* consists of a series of works made of wood, that are characterised by sequences of rigid lines which can be summarised in three words: geometrisms, colours and substance. *The Connection 3* is the union of three works appearing to be a tryptic filled with slender vertical forms of three different colours, one colour for each element of the artwork. In this artwork, the vertical shapes do not follow a rigid and orderly scheme, some show an interruption along their path.

In *Kinetics*' artwork (image 4 and 5), we attend light and shadow plays, that take part to the effects colours contribute to give. Another element in which they focus is perspective. When changing the observation point, these works represent a nature always different, changing their own image following the spectator movements. Moreover, the colors contribute to bring these mutations to life, highlighting the three-dimensional aspect of the work, as well as the light-shadow plays filling it. The vertical shapes have a color on their surface and a different color on their hidden sides. The idea behind it is that the work may give a different version depending on the observation point. It's the work itself that suggest to change that point of observation, offering new colors and new views. This is a vision that Tom Vanhauwaert shares with the public with the objective that it will be applied to everyday life. Let's remember the words of the artist:

“My lifeline is hidden in my artwork: to look at life in a different way.”²



Image image2 - Kinetic / Pink Barbie in a Yellow Cab, Tom Vanhauwaert, 50x50 cm

Sources

- Claudio Fiorentini, Tom Vanhauwaert Exhibition, “Minimalism”, Captaloon Art, Madrid
- *First individual Tom Vanhauwaert exhibition (Eerste soloshow van Tom Vanhauwaert)*, KW Thuis in West – Vlaanderen, <https://kw.be/nieuws/cultuur/kunst/eerste-soloshow-van-tom-vanhauwaert/> 25 March 2023
- <https://www.tomvanhauwaert.com/>