

THOMAS BRAMBILLA

Bryan Hunt – Recent Works

12/10/2024– 29/11/2024

Opening: October 12th 6:30 pm.

Opening hours: Monday – Friday, h 2-7:00 pm.

Thomas Brambilla Gallery is proud to announce the first exhibition in Italy at the gallery of American artist Bryan Hunt (b. 1947), opening on October 12th, 2024.

The exhibition presents a selection of Hunt's works, focusing prominently on his recent series of the Pods, alongside of sculptures from his iconic series of the Airships.

Bryan Hunt's most iconic bodies of works are the Airships which he developed thanks to his interest in architecture and space. Hunt took inspiration for his forms from early twentieth century airships, that he revisited them frequently since the Seventies. These works were a challenge to the cult-like followers of Minimalism and Earth Art and a sophisticated and idiosyncratic response to classical and modern sculpture.

The Airships are dirigible-shaped structures and are made by balsa and spruce wood covered with silk and metal leaf. They are designed to be mounted directly on the wall over the viewer's head and out of reach, giving the impression of being suspended in space. The position and the horizontal placement of the airship make the structures appear weightless and gravity defying.

Talking about the Airships, Hunt stated, *“By addressing proportions, balance, and light, the airships transform a room and disregard its boundaries. Ultimately, they have as much to do with looking down on ourselves and our planet as us looking up at a weightless vessel.”*

In the recent years, Hunt has increasingly focused on the Pods series, which consists of installation of small and colorful dirigible-shaped structures, similar to the early airships. The Pods embody a sense of lightness and fluidity and continue to explore the lifelong exploration relation between science, architecture and philosophy.

As Jerry Saltz noted that: *“in the late ‘70s, Hunt began making the ‘Airship’. Miraculously, they jut out of the wall, above our heads, out of reach. We strain to understand their weightless horizontality, their shimmering gossamer instability. Pushing materials to their limits, he changes the gallery into a galaxy where new laws of thermodynamics and gravity and motion are indescribably put into effect. In the ‘Airship’, as in much of his subsequent work, Hunt turns the act of looking into bewildering uncommon, almost supernatural experience”.*

Bryan Hunt (b. 1947 in Terre Haute, IN) lives and work in New York City. He developed an early interest in architecture and space exploration having worked as a technical assistant at the Kennedy Space Center and later as an engineer's aide. In 1968, Hunt moved to Los Angeles and studied at the Otis Art Institute. He first went to New York City in the spring of 1972 to attend the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program. He continued to live and work in LA until 1976, part of a dynamic scene that included Allan McCollum, Lynda Benglis, Bruce Naumann, and Chris Burden.

Hunt has exhibited in several museums and institutions including: The Institute for Art and Urban Resources, The Clocktower, New York (1975), "Young American Artists" at The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (1978), "made by sculptors" at the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (1978), Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago (1979). at the Whitney Museum of American Art (1979, 1981, 1983), La Biennale in Venice (1980), The Museum of Modern Art, New York, The New York Contemporary Sculpture (1980), the National Museum of Contemporary Art Seoul, Korea, The Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, St. Louis (2007).

His work is included in museum collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Hirschhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark; Nasher Sculpture Center, Texas; Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven.

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Bryan Hunt – Recent Works

12/10/2024– 29/11/2024

Opening: 12 ottobre 18:30 pm.

Orari di apertura: lunedì – venerdì, h 14-19:00.

La Galleria Thomas Brambilla è lieta di annunciare la prima mostra in Italia e in galleria dell'artista americano Bryan Hunt (1947), che inaugurerà il 12 ottobre 2024.

La mostra presenta una selezione di opere recenti dell'artista, con un focus particolare sulla serie dei Pods e sulla celebre serie degli Airships.

Gli Airships, la serie più iconica di Hunt, sono nati dall'interesse dell'artista per l'architettura e l'esplorazione spaziale. Queste installazioni, che richiamano la forma dei dirigibili del primo Novecento, sono realizzate in legno di balsa e abete, rivestite di seta e foglia di metallo. Progettate per essere installate direttamente a muro, sopra la testa dello spettatore, sembrano quasi fluttuare nel vuoto, creando un'illusione di leggerezza che sfida la gravità. La loro posizione e orientamento orizzontale le fanno apparire come strutture prive di peso che sfidano la gravità.

Negli anni Settanta, queste opere riuscirono a rompere con le tendenze artistiche predominanti del periodo, come il Minimalismo e l'Earth Art, proponendo al contempo una reinterpretazione sofisticata della scultura classica e moderna. Hunt descrive gli Airships affermando: *“Affrontando proporzioni, equilibrio e luce, trasformano un ambiente e superano i suoi confini. Rappresentano tanto un'osservazione dall'alto del nostro pianeta quanto una contemplazione della nostra esistenza, come se guardassimo verso un'astronave senza peso”*.

Negli ultimi anni, invece, Hunt ha rivolto maggiormente la sua attenzione alla serie dei Pods, piccole e colorate strutture architettoniche a forma di dirigibile, che si ispirano agli Airships. I Pods evocano un senso di leggerezza e fluidità, continuando a esplorare il complesso legame tra scienza, architettura e filosofia.

Come ha osservato Jerry Saltz, *“alla fine degli anni '70, Hunt ha dato vita agli 'Airship', opere che si estendono dal muro, sopra le nostre teste, inaccessibili. Ci sforziamo di comprendere la loro orizzontalità senza peso, la loro fragile e scintillante instabilità. Hunt ha spinto i materiali ai loro limiti, trasformando lo spazio in una galassia e bilanciando le leggi della termodinamica, della gravità e del movimento. Negli 'Airship', come in gran parte del suo lavoro successivo, Hunt trasforma l'atto di osservare in un'esperienza sorprendente, unica, quasi soprannaturale”*.

Bryan Hunt (1947, Terre Haute, IN) vive e lavora a New York City. Sin da giovane ha sviluppato un interesse per l'architettura e lo spazio, lavorando come assistente tecnico al Kennedy Space Center e successivamente come assistente ingegnere. Nel 1968, Hunt si trasferì a Los Angeles per studiare all'Otis Art Institute. La sua prima visita a New York City risale al 1972 per frequentare il Whitney Museum Independent Study Program. Tornò a vivere e lavorare a Los Angeles fino al 1976, facendo parte della scena artistica che includeva artisti come Allan McCollum, Lynda Benglis, Bruce Naumann e Chris Burden.

Hunt ha esposto in numerosi musei e istituzioni, tra cui: The Institute for Art and Urban Resources, The Clocktower, New York (1975), "Young American Artists" al Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (1978), "made by sculptors" allo Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (1978), Renaissance Society all'Università di Chicago (1979), Whitney Museum of American Art (1979, 1981, 1983), La Biennale di Venezia (1980), The Museum of Modern Art, New York, The New York Contemporary Sculpture (1980), il National Museum of Contemporary Art Seoul, Corea, The Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, St. Louis (2007).

Le sue opere sono incluse nelle collezioni di vari musei, tra cui il Museum of Modern Art di New York; il Whitney Museum of American Art di New York; l'Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden di Washington; il Los Angeles County Museum of Art; il Museum of Contemporary Art di Los Angeles; il Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Danimarca; il Nasher Sculpture Center in Texas; e la Yale University Art Gallery a New Haven.