

Press release

16/02 – 20/03/2010

Mark Hadjipateras, in this, his most austere exhibition in terms of quantity, color and form, presents for the first time seven new unusually large sculptures and one large monoprint.

Andrea Gilbert (art critic) writes about the exhibition:

*For this new body of work, the artist has revisited some of his earlier projects and mediums, harvesting elements and body parts like a genetic engineer to create a new species. Whether two-dimensional, three-dimensional or environmental, Hadjipateras' enterprise is constructed out of free associations between form and content.*

*Over the approximately 25-year span of Hadjipateras' career, we have seen a civilization emerge and evolve much the same way as human cultures have done on earth over the millennia. Likewise, Hadjipateras' world includes inhabitants as well as landscape and architecture, all of which are the product of evolution, mutation, natural selection, and cross-cultural influences. His fascination with nature and culture encompasses not only a fusion of what does exist or has existed in the past across the world, but also extends to fantasy realms and what could exist in places yet to be discovered or created.*

*The seven tall monochrome black sculptures occupy the white room alone, looming over the viewers, extending into space, balancing precariously upon themselves and their bases. They are the offspring of a mating between Hadjipateras' "City Dwellers" – themselves a hybrid bio-industrial race – and his geometric constructions ("Sections," "Bittersweets"). Mingled and grafted from the artist's personal population of idiosyncratic forms, they unfold in space like spontaneous mutations that defy identification – and in some cases gravity. Some are more organic, others more constructivist; all are equally familiar and equally alien. In part and in whole they call to mind body parts and physical feats, machine components, household objects, building materials, cartoon figures, toys, ancient mythology, as well as futuristic sea and space travel.*

*Although these sculptures are imposing in terms of their color, scale and movement in space, they also appear vulnerable as they maintain their fragile equilibrium, posing a dichotomy that simultaneously affirms and challenges their force. To add to their inscrutability, their matte pitch surface absorbs the ambient light in a contraction of softness and strength. But finally, as in all of Hadjipateras' work, despite the impenetrable surface and height of these sculptures, the sense of whimsy, humor and a general eccentricity is always there to tantalize the viewer.*