

PAVEL KRAUS: POMPEII, A.D. 79

ART100, 1891 Project Space



Lead Vessel from Pompeii, 2017. Lead, burlap, wood, slate, alabaster, natural resins. 23 x 19 x 11 in.



ART100
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ART100 is pleased to present *PAVEL KRAUS: POMPEII, A.D. 79*.

A special evening viewing of Pavel Kraus: Pompeii A.D. 79 will take place at ART100 on Wednesday, June 7, 6–8 pm.

This extraordinary exhibition highlights recent sculptures, paintings, and installations by the maverick Czech-born New York artist **Pavel Kraus**. At the core of *PAVEL KRAUS: POMPEII, A.D. 79* are new works centered on the artist's recurring theme of "futuristic archeology." In his vessel-like sculptures, made of lead, marble and resin; marble floor pieces; and encaustic paintings often inlaid with jewel-like bits of resin, Kraus melds the past, present and future.

Over the course of his forty-year career, Kraus has developed a distinct abstract visual language of richly nuanced color, texture and form. The works often have the look of archaeological relics, or ancient artifacts; but they are unmistakably of the present day. Aside from his work's correspondence with contemporary avant-garde art, Kraus also taps into the anxiety of our age, and especially of the present moment. In these uncertain times, there is a built-in sense of anxious energy in the question, "What will tomorrow bring?"

The underlying premise of *PAVEL KRAUS: POMPEII, A.D. 79* is the date, August 23, A.D. 79, the day before the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. In ancient Roman times, Pompeii was a city of great wealth, prosperity and culture. It was completely buried in volcanic ash on August 24, A.D. 79. The city's destruction in antiquity ironically resulted in preservation for all time, as Pompeii today is again alive—with ghosts and legends, remnants of the past and present comingled. *PAVEL KRAUS: POMPEII, A.D. 79* encompasses great expanses of time, the ghosts of the past, the legends of the present, and hints of an exhilarating future.

An audio component complements the artworks in the ART100 space, as visitors to the exhibition will hear an original new composition by Dennis Báthory-Kitsz, *Requiem: for hard times, that they come again no more*, for chorus, string orchestra, and timpani.