PAVEL KRAUS

ROME Marble and Lead

CURATED BY AARON ZULPO





LIU Brooklyn 1 University Plaza Brooklyn, NY 11201

Jan 5 – Feb 23, 2018 Humanities Gallery First Floor Humanities Building **Opening Reception:** Friday, January 5, 6–8 p.m.

Roman Wedding, 2012. Marble inlay with semi-precious stones. 20 x 81 x 36 inches. Photo by Thomas Wilson. Partially funded by a generous grant from the Peter S. Reed Foundation.

The sculptures, paintings and installations by Pavel Kraus in Rome: Marble and Lead, curated by Aaron Zulpo, evoke the spirit of antiquity, yet they are forward-looking works that are very much of the twenty-first century avant-garde. Kraus is known for his use of modernist abstract forms and unorthodox materials. He uses novel combinations of materials, including lead and wax, and marble, wood, and resin. The new exhibition focuses on his use of lead and marble, but is not exclusive to those materials.

The Czech-born New York-based artist has a unique vision, as exemplified by the exhibition Rome: Marble and Lead. Among the highlights of the show are recent series of major works, including "Pompeii," a remarkable group of seemingly crenulated lead vessels filled with marble elements, often punctuated with touches of colorful natural resins. White marble slabs and blocks are the principal components of the series titled "Fresh Marbles," arranged in striking, architectonic configurations on the floor.

Also on view are Kraus's black and white "Offerings," pod-like sculptures made of filled-fabrics covered in richly textured encaustic. A marble phallic sculpture, referencing an ancient "fertility god," will also be on view. And the show's centerpiece is Kraus's rarely exhibited Roman Wedding (2012), produced in the artist's studio in Rajasthan, India. This large, bed-like sculpture is made of marble with intricate inlays of semi-precious stones.

These extraordinary works, from Kraus's ongoing "Pompeii" and "Roman Wedding" series propose astonishing and poetically realized new forms of expression, redolent of the past, yet directed toward the future.

For further information, please call 718-488-1198.

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