



Toy
 Mixed média
 Dim. : (Lxlxh) : 20 x 4,5 X 2,5m
 Installation Grand-Place, Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve, (B)
 © Photo Sylvie Macias Diaz

Sylvie Macias Diaz (1968)

Sylvie Macias Diaz (1968)'s early artistic productions gravitate around the idea of playing. They are the visualization of a large endearing architectural fantasy (world). By the use of simple recycled materials, she created villas and pavilions amongst others, in which the utopia of the building makes itself visible through her models/ prototypes. She loosely stacked fruit crates together to create a modernist 'site', which she later submerged under water at the gallery Nadja Vilenne in Liège. The mirroring of the water on this mini-architecture produced both a powerful poetic image and an inviting spectacle. Sylvie Macias Diaz knows how to challenge her audience by using banal material. She turned around the logic behind the strategy of her models into a concrete possibility with her contribution to the Biennale of Louvain-la-Neuve (B, 2000) : she 'graced' the Grand-Place with a giant DIY-made truck. A toy of (frightening) real proportions.

The idea of playfulness is also the basis of her latest clay sculptures and drawings. She combines borrowed parts from recognizable reality together with cheap recycled materials. At first glance they appear to be very ordinary clay sculptures. Yet, it soon becomes clear that they are composed of colorful and banal (disposable) small objects. A radar, a tank, a gun, rockets- in their innocence, they point mainly to the concept of war - or perhaps the young artist refers to the concept of avant-garde art that was taken from the war jargon ...

Sylvie Macias Diaz presented in Liège a laughable battlefield, an unbelievable inspiring set of art-harnesses which fuse poetry together with childhood and other more wry, worldly memories of blind terror.

*Luk Lambrecht
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translated from Dutch by Henri J Sandront