

GALERIE MARIA BERNHEIM

Denis Savary

Ventimile

26 May - 12 June 2021

Galerie Maria Bernheim LONDON is pleased to present *Ventimile*, an exhibition of new works by Denis Savary.

Exuding the artist's eclectic and versatile multifaceted practice, this new series of sculptures embraces his ability to push the material to its limits. In this exhibition, his new works represent a continuum in his overall sculptural projects, referencing art historical and literary heritage while actively responding to the environment of the gallery, with its striking floor and classical architecture.

Multicolored blown glass works will hang like polymorphous chandeliers in the gallery space. Denis Savary employs the formal language of sculpture with an emphasis on geometry and colors through the traditional medium of glass, paying homage to artists such as Duchamp and Sophie Taeuber Arp but also to a painterly conception of color field, where the sculpture exists outside of itself through the play on light and shadows.

As often in his oeuvre, this series is simultaneously imbued with themes and images of old-world tales, where temptation and salvation represent two pieces of the same puzzle. The play on light and transparency mixes kitsch with a romantic Raphaelite idea of landscape, whilst creating an immersive environment for the viewer, transporting them to a small village on the Italian coast. The clear references to the Memphis Group and Ettore Sottsass are less of an homage than a disassembly, pulling apart all the elements and recreating an extraordinary form.

Whether they take different shapes as hanging installations or as intimate design sculptures, Savary's sculpture imply secret narratives and always evolving histories.

This exhibition runs concurrently to Savary's solo exhibition at the Kunsthalle St Gallen in Switzerland.

Denis Savary has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions in international institutions and recently at the Musée de la Chaux de Fonds, Switzerland, Museo Pietro Canonica, Rome and MAMCO in Geneva.

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