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BOUKE DE VRIES

16 January - 20 February 2010



© Bouke de Vries
 'Deconstructions': Dead nature, life cycle, 2009
 16th/17th century Chinese Swatow dish and mixed media
 diam 58x38cm

BOUKE DE VRIES
 'Deconstructions'

16.01.2010 - 20.02.2010

Galerie Ron Mandos will start 2010 with a mesmerising show of new work by Margriet Smulders, combined with ethereal porcelain (de)constructions by Bouke de Vries. Many thanks to auction house Christies Amsterdam and Dr A. Wieg Fine Arts, who have loaned a wonderful selection of seventeenth-century Old Masters especially for the show, including work from Willem van Aelst.

The work of Bouke de Vries also has distinct connections with the Golden Age. After having worked with several different fashion designers, De Vries made a career move into ceramic restoration. In this new line of work he was regularly offered pieces given up by their owners that, despite the traces of their use, had not lost any of their original charm. In his 'exploded' works, he takes advantage of this characteristic of these pieces. Instead of attempting to erase the traces of use and damage, he elaborates on it, so that these works gain a new lease of life. They become still-lives permeated with a 'Vanitas' character: a popular theme with many contemporaries of the 17th century ceramists who made these objects.

Bouke de Vries (Utrecht, 1960) lives and works in London. He studied at the Design Academy in Eindhoven and Central St Martin's in London. Having worked with the likes of John Galliano, Stephen Jones and Zandra Rhodes, De Vries studied restoration at West Dean College. Aside from his work as visual artist, he also works on projects for other high profile artists, such as Grayson Perry. His work is included in collections such as that of Kay Saatchi, and the Zabudowicz collection.

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