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PRESSBOOK

Dorchester Collection N°24

DANIEL DAVIAU
丹尼尔·达维欧

ANIMAL BEAUTY
万物有灵

Dorchester Collection- N°24

One page, P30



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Daniel Daviau & Galerie Dumonteil

Sculptor Daniel Daviau creates elegant, almost meditative, portraits of animals. Collect encounters this uniquely positioned artist and his longtime representative, Pierre Dumonteil of Galerie Dumonteil.



Animals are the most ancient subject matter in the history of human figurative representations—they speak silently to us. In the same way, we might feel an affinity to certain animals more than others. Collectors of the work of French sculptor, Daniel Daviau, know this sentiment all too well—his gallerist, Pierre Dumonteil, even speaks of a certain “love affair” that exists between collectors and certain sculptures.

A retrospective exhibition earlier this year, entitled ‘Animal Beauty’ held in Shanghai, China, at Galerie Dumonteil’s outpost in the city, reinforced both the local and universal appeal of Daviau’s work. From as early as the vivid single-line depictions of the prehistoric Lascaux caves, animals are an important theme in the history of art.

Galerie Dumonteil is specialised in animal sculpture and has represented Daniel Daviau for over 25 years with its gallery spaces in Paris, New York and Shanghai. China was a natural choice for the artist’s retrospective, given the culture’s penchant for animal representations, from decorative porcelain to astrological symbols. “Daniel Daviau’s figurative style matches perfectly with the Chinese traditional art; in the meantime, it holds a contemporary point of view of animals and their relations with mankind...as part of the symbols applied in decorative art, they are universal in all civilisations.”

Daviau’s poetic animal universe is nevertheless married to pure mastery of techniques. Raised on a farm in Sarlat, a historical city in southwest France, Daviau pursued studies in sculpture and is one of the few contemporary artists to understand and master all techniques of bronze sculpture fabrication. Daviau is also one of the few to master the “patina” technique—the skill of distressing a thin layer that forms on the surface of the bronze, rendering each piece completely unique.

Daviau’s animal sculptures are instantly recognisable—sensitive, strong and original, with pure lines and composed purity. He also lends a gentle and witty expression to the animals. Pierre Dumonteil, who knows his work thoroughly, gets to the heart of David Daviau’s true and lasting value as a sculptor: “It is his sincerity, his love for his models, and of course, his unique way of giving them life in art.”

Upper left image: Pierre Dumonteil (left) with Daniel Daviau (right)

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