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Direction de la communication
et des partenariats
75191 Paris cedex 04

Director
Françoise Pams
Telephone
00 33 (0)1 44 78 12 87
E-mail
francoise.pams@centrepompidou.fr

Press Officer
Thomas Lozinski
Telephone
00 33 (0)1 44 78 48 56
E-mail
thomas.lozinski@centrepompidou.fr

Sic Transit Gloria Mundi, 2012. HD color film with sound,
4'66"
Courtesy of the artist, Yvon Lambert Paris, and Dvir
Gallery Tel Aviv

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**Organized in partnership with
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PRESS RELEASE

MIRCEA CANTOR

2011 MARCEL DUCHAMP PRIZE WINNER

OCTOBER 3, 2012 – JANUARY 7, 2013

ESPACE 315, LEVEL 1

2011 Marcel Duchamp Prize winner Mircea Cantor will be on show at the Centre Pompidou Espace 315 in partnership with ADIAF, from October 3, 2012 to January 7, 2013.

At once poetic, minimal, and metaphysical, Mircea Cantor's works – be they videos, photographs, drawings, sculptures or installations – have made the artist quite a figure in the new geography of contemporary art. A self-styled rootless wanderer, Mircea Cantor has made himself a name on the contemporary art scene through a series of works so delicate yet guarded, so subtle yet radical, that their material seems to be the very stuff that sensitive dreams are made on. Mircea Cantor says: "Today, one should be wary to speak the language of globalization and pander to global brands but should rather speak a universal language, which is the very opposite. That is exactly what globalization is doing away with."

Speaking about his works, Cantor also mentions "the need for uncertainty", because he wants to create pieces that are open to multiple perspectives, multiple readings. Porous, they invite the contemporary world through and feed on reality, on human contradictions, through a discursive process: layers of metaphors that harmonize or clash with each other. The artist brings myths, elements from various ancient cultures, into play, without indulging into nostalgia, but paying attention rather to the enduring signs of the past in the present.

For Espace 315, Mircea Cantor has chosen to present four pieces, the last two of which were conceived specifically for this exhibition: *Sic Transit Gloria Mundi*, 2012; *Epic Fountain*, 2012; *Dont' judge, Filter, shoot*, 2012; *Wind orchestra*, 2012.

In the video *Wind orchestra*, 2012, which opens the exhibition, a child is seen playing at knocking over a knife by blowing on it; the child puts it up again, its tip pointed upwards, and starts over. This overly simple and repeated gesture points to the possible domination of life over death.

With *Epic Fountain*, 2012, made of 24-carat-gold safety pins soldered together to form three DNA double helix, the artist questions the notion of humanity, highlighting its capacity for perpetual rebirth while insisting on its transformation.

In the film *Sic Transit Gloria Mundi*, 2012, literally "Thus passes the glory of the world", a young woman dressed as a priestess uncoils gunpowder-coated wick that has been lit on the open palms of beggars all bowed in a circle. Inspired by the ritual used for the inauguration of Popes, during which a wick is lit three times to warn the newly elected pontiff about the ephemeral nature of glory and life, this piece contrasts the humility of those who ask with the vanity of those who give while reminding us of the inevitability of death.

Produced specifically for this exhibition, the piece *Dont' judge, Filter, shoot*, 2012, is a monumental rosette made of interlaced wooden sieves. On the rims are attached rifle bullets made of concrete and gold. The whole piece hangs from the wall, in the center of the space. The filter, as told by the title of the piece, is a parable of our capacity for judgment and analysis, which it describes as damaged.

The work of Mircea Cantor has been shown in monographic exhibitions, including *Sic Transit Gloria Mundi*, 2012 at MACRO, Museo di Arte Contemporanea in Rome, *More cheeks than slaps*, 2011, at Credac, in Ivry sur Seine, *Tracking Happiness*, 2009, at Kunsthaus Zurich, and as part of many group exhibitions, including *TRACK, S.M.A.K.*, 2012, in Ghent, *Our magic Hour* in 2011 at the "Yokohama Triennale", *The world is yours*, 2009 at the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, in Denmark.

Cantor's work is included in public collections worldwide such as The Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid; Kunsthaus Zurich; Museum Abteiberg, Monchengladbach, Germany.

Born in 1977 in Oradea, Romania, Mircea Cantor lives and works in Paris. He is represented by the Yvon Lambert gallery, the Magazzino di arte moderna gallery in Rome and the Dvir gallery in Tel Aviv.

