

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kosyo

New Sculptures and Paintings

February 14 – March 20, 2004

Stefan Stux gallery is pleased to present the New York based Bulgarian artist, Kosyo. The paintings and sculptures by Kosyo now on display in Stux Gallery's Project Room explore classic issues such as mortality and beauty, which are re-invested with contemporary significance through his innovative use of the modern materials of silicone and polyurethane. In a complex series of explorations of the relationship between the hand crafted and the machine-made, he paints a coat of specially pigmented silicone inside a mold of a human skull (originally crafted by the artist as well), creating a postcard-beautiful sunset on the rear side of the cranium (allowing the front of the face to recede into the darkness of night), and then casts an additional layer of the resin inside to produce a hollow, but firmly freestanding skull/sculpture, an ingeniously mediated response to the human condition.

The textured silicone paintings, tacked to the walls like so many re-oriented rubber door mats, are created through a similar process, this time by painting the pigmented silicone onto various found, machine-generated surfaces. Kosyo builds up the image in reverse, from foreground to background, and after the silicone has set up properly, the painting is peeled away from its surface/mold, revealing the finished work in its correct orientation to the viewer. The mechanically repetitive patterns on the surface of the works contradict and extend the normal conception of texture as it is applied to painting, which is most often seen as a sign of the existential presence of the painter's hand in the work. Here, the painter's physical presence is suppressed, and the resulting objects gain a unique, independent sense of substance, lending them an autonomous, almost impersonal air.

Oscillating effortlessly between the allegorical and the literal, the handmade and the machine-generated, the visual and the tactile, Kosyo confounds the readymade categories we normally use to make sense of the world, driving the viewer to contemplate each of his works from a new perspective, compelling us to encounter them each time freshly, on their own unique terms.

- *Beth E. Wilson*

Kosyo is a New York City based artist who was born in Bulgaria and studied at the National Academy of Fine Art in Sofia. He has shown extensively throughout Europe and the United States including the Queens Museum of Art, the Herringen Kunstverein in Germany and the Wittgenstein House in Vienna. This will be his first solo show in New York.