Etchi Werner Nyiri
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In her new solo exhibition, HIVE MIND, Etchi Werner-Nyiri uses her artistic vocabulary to explore latent functions of the brain – motion, creation, multiplicity, consciousness. Along those lines, she deals with contemporary phenomena that disrupt and challenge the brain's healthy processes. Whether inspired by the research of the evolving Alzheimer's disease, or the burgeoning cases of ADD/ADHD, Werner-Nyiri creates colorful yet 'infected' pieces that mask destructive potential for distortion, interruption, and disassembly, behind an alluring, festive facade.

The exhibition's title - HIVE MIND - refers to the internet's use of the collective mind, where questions are raised online, reaching a group of users, sometimes anonymous, while seeking for answers. The Hive Mind cancels the traditional hierarchy of encyclopedic knowledge, thus creating a pluralistic arena, where various answers and suggestions are presented in a way that grants priority to collective collaboration over the individual's point of view.

This is, in fact, a “brain storm” (as the title of one of the works in the exhibition) taking place without an actual meeting, sometimes without different participants knowing one another. The online arena allows the Hive Mind to consolidate thoughts while keeping its amorphous state, allowing the creation of a different group of people each time. The group congregates and spreads away in accordance with the needs of the topic discussed. Just like a thought that can pop-in and disappear, or a memory that can be recalled then float away, the Hive Mind is used as a fluid, dynamic space, which swirls in a state of constant forming.

Werner-Nyiri's sculptures are based on images and shapes of brains, as seen in scientific and medical scans found online. The sculptures are made of Plexiglas and wood, creating a space filled with motion and overwhelming color, using a technique of multiplying the units that forms each sculpture. On one hand, this process seems to represent the accelerated progress of scientific research, while on the other hand, symbolize the uncontrolled rampage of malignant cancerous cells. Werner-Nyiri channels the hidden “brain source” into tangible foundation stones, with which she portrays intangible mental projections such as obsessiveness (OCD), split personalities, complementary or opposed (Alter Ego), abstraction, dreaming and intensive thinking (Butterflies in my Head). She also expresses an emotional swirl that is moving along the lines of unexpected motions, and regular ups and downs that appear in relatively expected times (Brain Steaming).
Sometimes, the sculptures reflect respectability, a momentum of thoughts that bring about pride and satisfaction. At times they seem like emerging towers of expansive growth, while simultaneously harboring the potential of withering and collapsing before their time. Her works reflect the tension between the subconscious and intuition, high self-esteem and ever-troubling self-doubt, and rushing after what the heart desires versus slowing down by rational self-control.

Werner-Nyiri’s sculptures invite the viewer to circle around them, wonder about their smooth surfaces and the many perspectives from inside and out. Nibbling through the balance of the consciousness are the alluring, colorful veneer and punctured openings that resemble wide-open mouths. A pendulum of motion between what is beautiful to what is defective, between the celebration of life and the unwelcomed sickness and death, between overflowing richness and sensuality to the realization that everything is hanging by a thread and may collapse at any moment – these are all at the essence of Etchi Werner-Nyiri’s artistic work, and at the heart of this exhibition.

Sagi Refael
Alter Ego, 2015,
Wood, ink & plexiglas,
215x25x37 cm
Butterflies in my Head, 2015,
Plexiglas,
180x42x42 cm
Brain Storm, 2015, Wood, ink & plexiglas
Dimensions variable
Atlas of the Brain, 2015
Painted wood & fiber brush
50x30x11 cm
Spine, 2015,
Wood, Plexiglas, metal, plastic & rubber
110x70x56 cm

Memory Box, 2015,
Painted wood & mirror,
40x40x40 cm

תיבת זכרון, 2015,
עץ צבוע ומראה

שידרה, 2015,
עץ, פלסטיק, מתכת, גומי

Brainstreaming, 2015,
Wood, ink & plexiglas
Dimensions variable
Hive Mind, 2015,
Painted wood
170x85x80 cm

מוח כוורת, 2015,
עץ צבוע
170x85x80 cm
O.C.D., 2015
Painted wood & aluminum
155x42x42 cm
Untitled, 2015
Painted wood, plexiglas & fiber brush
22x33x5.5 cm
Untitled, 2015
Painted wood, plexiglas & fiber brush
50x33x20 cm