

GAGOSIAN



THE ART NEWSPAPER

Brad Pitt makes his debut as a sculptor in Finland exhibition

The Fight Club actor shows his art in public for the first time in a group show with musician Nick Cave and artist Thomas Houseago



*Nick Cave, Thomas Houseago and Brad Pitt at the Sara Hildén Art Museum in Tampere, Finland
Photo: Jussi Koivunen*

Many have described his face as "sculpted by the gods", but few would define the actor Brad Pitt as a sculptor, until now. The A-list Hollywood star has publicly debuted his first works of art at the Sara Hildén Art Museum in Tampere, Finland, alongside works by the musician Nick Cave and the artist Thomas Houseago for the exhibition *We* (until 15 January).

Among the nine works by Pitt on show are a house-shaped structure moulded in clear silicon and shot with bullets, and his first ever sculpture, *House A Go Go* (2017): a 46cm-tall miniature house made out of tree bark, crudely held together with tape.



Brad Pitt's Aiming At You I Saw Me But It Was Too Late This Time (2020)
Photo: Instagram/ deBranne Treu

The largest pieces include a coffin-sized bronze box depicting hands, feet and faces attempting to break through the structure at various angles, and the plaster wall-hanging sculpture *Aiming At You I Saw Me But It Was Too Late This Time* (2020), which depicts a gun fight between eight figures.

The *Oceans 11* star reportedly began making ceramic art following his turbulent divorce from the actress Angelina Jolie in 2017. According to *The Sun*, the actor now has a sculpture studio at his Los Angeles home, and invited Leonardo DiCaprio over during the making of *Once Upon A Time In Hollywood* to “bond over their shared love of pottery”.



A coffin-sized bronze box by Brad Pitt.
Photo: Instagram/ deBranne Treu

Speaking at the exhibition's opening, Pitt said of his artistic turn: “For me it’s about self reflection... It was born out of ownership over what I call a ‘radical inventory of the self’. And getting really brutally honest with me and taking account of those I may have hurt and the moments I’ve just gotten wrong.”



Nick Cave has debuted his ceramic works at Sara Hilden Museum of Art in Tampere, Finland.

Meanwhile, the Australian singer-songwriter Nick Cave (not to be confused with the American visual and performance artist of the same name) is also making his artistic debut: he shows "glazed ceramic figurines depicting the life of the Devil in 17 stations, from innocence through experience into confrontation of our mortality," according to a press release. *The Devil: A Life* is Cave's first major body of visual work. It includes 17 individual pieces ranging between 15cm and 50cm tall, each hand-crafted, painted and glazed by Cave in England, between 2020 and 2022. Aesthetically the series nods to the artist's interest in Victorian Staffordshire Flatback figurines, of which he is a collector.



*Houseago's painting Weekend at El Cap.
Courtesy of the artist, Sara Hilden Museum of Art and Gagosian Gallery.*

Both fledgling sculptors created these works in dialogue with the considerably more experienced Houseago. The British artist has been practising for nearly three decades and showed work at the Whitney Biennial in 2010. In Tampere, Houseago, who is better known as a sculptor, shows a number of paintings, a medium he began experimenting with in recent years. They come from his large-scale *Visions* series that was made outdoors and was inspired by European symbolists including Norway's Edvard Munch. He also shows new sculptures made from redwood and plaster that he made in response to works in the collection of the Sara Hildén Foundation, such as Alberto Giacometti's sculpture *Woman on a Chariot* (1943/62).

Speaking of his decision to stage a collaborative show between himself, Cave and Pitt, Houseago says in a statement: "I am not an I. I'm a WE!"