

# SLEWE

## PRESS RELEASE

### ***Broken Gods Broken Heroes***

**Thomas Houseago, Jonathan Meese, Matthew Monahan**

**Curator: Pierre Audi**

**25.01 – 01.03.2014**

Slewe Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of a special exhibition, entitled *Broken Gods Broken Heroes*, curated by Pierre Audi (\*1957, Beirut), the artistic director of the Dutch National Opera. Audi, known for his both highly aesthetic and dramatic settings, has chosen works by three internationally known artists: Thomas Houseago (\*1972, UK), Jonathan Meese (\*1970, DE) and Matthew Monahan (\*1972, USA). The exhibition opens Saturday January 25 and runs until March 1, 2014.

The title of the exhibition refers to Richard Wagner's *Ring*, the legendary opera cycle, which Audi has directed many times with great success in Amsterdam since 1997 and which happens to be performed for the last time during this exhibition. Audi, who recently celebrated his 25th anniversary as artistic director of the Dutch National Opera, collaborated with many artists, among whom Jannis Kounellis, Karel Appel, Georg Baselitz and Anish Kapoor and lately with Jonathan Meese in Wolfgang Rihm's *Dionysos* in 2011. Inspired by architecture and visual art in his profession, he is privately also a collector of contemporary art.

British sculptor Thomas Houseago creates monumental, often figurative sculptures that have a striking ability to simultaneously convey states of power and vulnerability. Using materials associated with classical and modernist sculpture (such as carved wood, clay, plaster and bronze), as well as less traditional materials (steel rods, concrete and hessian), he creates sculptures that emphatically reveal the process of making. Houseago had his education at the St. Martin's School of Art in London and at De Ateliers in Amsterdam. He exhibits regularly worldwide at galleries like Hauser & Wirth, Gagosian and Xavier Hufkens. In Spring 2014 he will have an exhibition at the Gemeentemuseum The Hague. He lives and works in Los Angeles.

The paintings, sculptures and performances by German artist Jonathan Meese are self-portrait statements for art sake. His proclamation of the 'Diktatur der Kunst' is on the edge of reality and art, rational and irrational, live and death. In his colourful expressionist art works he refers to German mythical figures, art history and opera's such as Wagner's Parsifal. In 2016 Meese will direct a new

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production of Parsifal at the Bayreuth Festival. After his education in Hamburg and his participation at the Berlin Biennial in 1997 he started to show internationally. In 2011 he had an exhibition at GEM in The Hague. He lives and works in Berlin, where also his main gallery Contemporary Fine Art is situated.

Matthew Monahan's presents a futuristic archaeology in his work. Drawing from a wide range of influences, from Modernist art to ancient totems, Monahan's 'artefacts' are both familiar and strange. Filtering historical mythologies through his own personal system of reference, altered further through the experience of making, Monahan's work alludes to a contemporary spirituality, where beauty and brutality coalesce as virtual monuments. Monahan studied at Cooper Union School of Art in New York, and at the Rietveld Academy and De Ateliers in Amsterdam. Since his start he exhibits regularly at Fons Welters in Amsterdam and Anton Kern Gallery, New York. He lives and works in Los Angeles.

This will be the third exhibition in a row at Slewe Gallery composed by a guest curator. Earlier editions were by art historian Rudi Fuchs with *Couplet 7* in 2011 (with Karel Appel, Domenico Bianchi and Georg Herold) and by Scottish artist Alan Johnston with *Tactile Vision* in 2009, focusing on Japanese contemporary art.

Slewe Gallery is open from Wednesday through Saturday from 1 to 6 pm and by appointment.

For more information please contact the gallery.

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