

**BRAD DOWNEY**



***Pretending to Be in Control* (2018), Digital photographs, 95×147cm, 93×140cm**

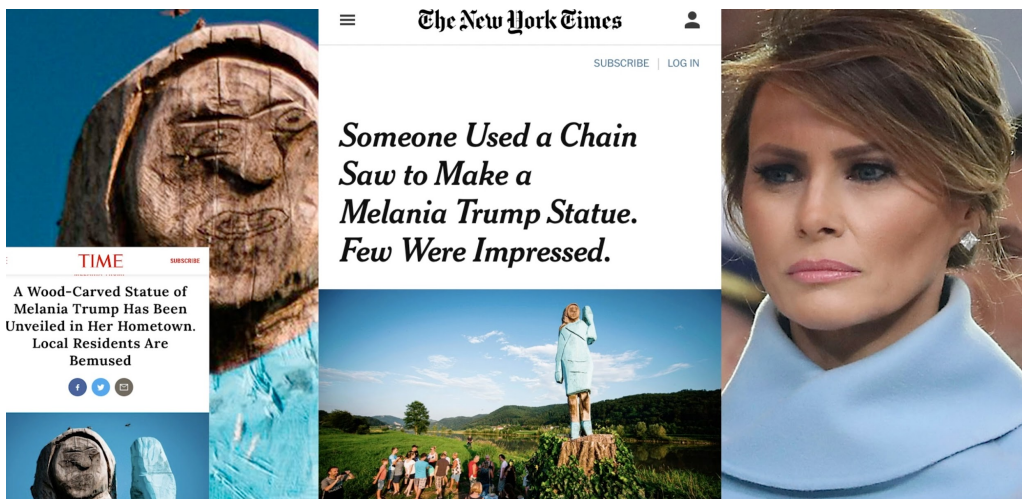
Police doing AcroYoga or acrobats wearing full combat gear of the French CRS (Compagnies Républicaines de Sécurité). Four of them pile on top of each other on a park bench, their heads lying relaxed on each other's chest, looking up at the sky. In another constellation, one of them is lying on his back like a beetle, balancing a partner on his armorclad hands and feet. Their identity is concealed under the visors of the helmets. The absurdity and the playfulness of the scenes are amusing, since the executive of the state power is ridiculed or portrayed in a peaceful, lovable light. However, it can only be a parallel universe in which the expensive military uniforms are not used for defense or force, but for acrobatics and flirting. Make Love Not War.

(The CRS are comparable to the German riot police, i.e. used in large scale demonstrations. The predecessor organization was the paramilitary *groupes mobiles de réserve* of Vichy France)

- Nadia Pilchowski



**Melania (2019), Sevenica Slovenia, Digital video, 12 min 11 sec**



**Melania (media analysis) (2020), Sevenica Slovenia, Digital video, 8 min 11 sec**

The cause for the erection of the monument to Melania is Brad's first visit to Slovenia in the summer of 2018, when he discovered that it is the birthplace of the First Lady of his homeland. Another motivation could certainly be the aggressive anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies of her husband. So Brad decided to commemorate this contradiction named Melania together with a team of Slovenian colleagues and the local community. After choosing and buying the poplar tree and after meeting and bringing Maxi – an amateur chainsaw sculptor, born in the same month of the same year and in the same maternity ward as Melania – into the project, the monument was unveiled last year in Rožno, near Sevnica, on the day when the American people celebrate the declaration of their independence. One part of the art project is also the documentary film, a portrait of Maxi, which shows the crucial steps in the making of the sculpture. Brad and his colleagues then began to make replicas of the statue, based on the cast of the original. Exactly one year after the unveiling, on the 4th of July 2020, unknown perpetrators burned down the monument in

Rožno. Brad then removed it and, joining forces with the local community that took care of the monument and its surroundings, erected a bronze replica. *Melania* is a multi-layered project that is simply not allowed to conclude by everything that is happening around it.

- Karlo Hmeljak



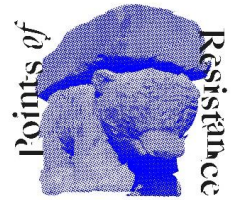
**MELANIA (2020), Bronze Edition, 52 x 17 x 12 cm**

The MELANIA Bronze edition by Brad Downey is a detailed miniature of the original bronze sculpture installed by the US artist on a tree stump near Melania Trump's Slovenian hometown. Originally created by a Slovenian artist with a chainsaw from a tree trunk, the world's first sculpture of the American First Lady reflects both the anti-immigrant policies of the 45th U.S. President and the paradox of his own wife's immigrant background. The sculpture received worldwide media coverage. The first wooden version was set on fire by an unknown person on July 4, 2020, the American national holiday, and was subsequently replaced by Downey with a full-size bronze. The edition of eighty was produced in Slovenia.

## BIO

Brad Downey is a Berlin-based, Kentucky-born conceptual artist. His hyper-diverse approach allows him recognition across multiple art fields. Working across media, he employs spontaneous sculptures, abjected assemblages, unsolicited interventions, silent alterations, and slapstick formalism. By challenging, adapting and manipulating rather than by accepting given forms, norms, and regulations of artistic production, Downey's rather anti-authoritarian work ventures into uncharted territories and somehow evades an unambiguous definition. In spite of this, his work always evinces a taste for comic anarchy and a love of physical engagement and improvisation.

Recent solo exhibitions include: Reverse Culture Shock; MU, Eindhoven (2018); Vernissage, Overcoat Gallery, Moscow (2017); Souvenirs, Ruttkowski; 68, Cologne (2015); Damaged Goods, Cuadro Gallery, Dubai (2015). Recent



group exhibitions include: Skin-Fade, Disconnected, Slick-Back, Simulaker Gallery, Novo Mesto (2018); Cultural Hijack, Archip, Prague (2017); Art and the City: Graffiti in the Internet Age, Electromuseum, Moscow (2017); Essentials, Haus der Kunst, Munich (2017); Planet B, NRW Forum, Duesseldorf (2016); Vertical I, Michael Horbach Foundation, Cologne (2016). Downey was awarded Stiftung Kunstfonds for his catalogue publication "Slapstick Formalism: Process, Project, Object."

## CV

### Education

- 2003-2005 Slade School of Art - MFA Painting - London, UK  
1998-2003 Pratt Institute - BFA, Film - Brooklyn, NY

### Solo shows

- 2016 *Vernissage*, Overcoat Gallery, Moscow, Russia  
2015 *Damaged Goods*, Cuadro Gallery, Dubai, UAE  
*Souvenirs, Ruttkowski;68*, Cologne, Germany  
2014 *Sculptures, Leftovers and Documentation*, Haus am Lützowplatz, Berlin, Germany  
*Inside Out - Upside Down*, NUN, Berlin, Germany  
2013 *The Spat Upon*, SIC Space, Helsinki, Finland  
*The Floor, the Table and the Wall*, Kulturzentrum Marstall am Schloss Ahrensburg, Germany  
2011 *Shallow*, Kunstverein Bucholz, Germany  
*We Are Begining*, Cuadro - Dubai, UAE  
2010 *I Forget What I Wanted To Say*, Die Ausstellungsstrasse, Vienna, Austria  
2009 *Broken Horizon*, Reinking Projekte, Hamburg, Germany  
*An Honest Thief*, Stolenspace, London, England

### Group shows

- 2016  
*Essentials*, , Haus der Kunst Munich, Germany  
*Planet B*, at NRW Forum, Duesseldorf, Germany  
*UM Festival for Contemporary Art*, Uckermark, Germany  
*The Thaw*, , CCI Fabric, Moscow, Russia  
*Artmosphere*, Manege, Moscow, Russia  
*Vertical I*, Michael Horbach Foundation, Cologne, Germany  
*Life O' Banner*, Fundacja Nośna, Kraków, Poland  
*Crossing Borders/ Crossing Boundaries*, SAM, St. Petersburg, Russia  
*The Impossibility of Being*, WUK, Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna, Austria  
*Venturing Beyond*, Somerset House, London, UK.  
*Einschmiegen III*, Galerija EPEKA, Maribor, Slovenija  
*2te 11te, Interventionale*, Haus am Lützowplatz, Ausstellungsraum der IG Metall, Berlin, Germany

*Sweat Shop*, Schau Fenster, Berlin, Germany

2015

*Einschmiegen III*, Kunsthalle Graz, Graz, Austria

*Catastrofe*, Studio Cromie, Grottaglie, Italy

*Einschmiegen III*, Künstlerhaus Wien, Vienna, Austria

*Tsekh, Smena*, Kazan, Russia

*Icastica*, Piazza Grande, Arezzo, Italy

*Canal Street*, Kulturprojekte Littmann, Basel, Switzerland

*Chasing Max Mustermann*, Universal Museum Joanneum, Graz, Austria

*Kongress der Möglichkeiten*, Kunstraum Kreuzberg Bethanien, Berlin, Germany

*The Artist As Curator's Art vol.V*, Shau Fenster, Berlin, Germany

*Einschmiegen III*, Galerija EPEKA, Maribor, Slovenija

*Konkrete Utopien*, Realismus Club, Berlin, Germany

*Mapping The City*, Somerset House, London, UK

2014

*Market Ready- Untitled*, Schau Fenster, Berlin, Germany

*CASTLE DIS-PLAY*, Städtische Galerie Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, Germany

*Kiasma Hits*, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland

*Show Me (Your Idols)*, Kreuzberg Pavillon, Berlin, Germany

*Casus Pacis*, (Manifesta 10 Parallel Exhibition), Street Art Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia

*Video Shrines*, Artbox, Melbourne, Australia

*Dry Tide - Enact Fluidity*, LE6B, Paris, France

2013

*Brutal*, Lazarides Gallery, London, United Kingdom

*Galeria Autonomica*, Münchner Stadtmuseum, Munich, Germany

*Akce Z*, Třafačka Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic

*What is Contemporary Art*, Museum of Contemporary Art Roskilde, Denmark

*Petites Résistances*, Weltkunstzimmer, Düsseldorf, Germany

*Small Gestures*, MU / Strijp-S, Eindhoven, Netherlands

*POESIA*, Städtische Galerie, Delmenhorst, Germany

2012

*Bios, Concepts Of Life in Contemporary Sculpture*, Georg Kolbe Museum, Berlin, Germany

*The Samawi Collection II*, Ayyam Art Center, Dubai, UAE

*reKOLLECT*, Kunstraum Kreuzberg Bethanien - Berlin, Germany

*Street Smart*, Kulturehuset, Stockholm, Sweden

*Stuck On The City*, Galerie hlavního města Prahy, Prague, Czech Republic

2011

*Bits + Pieces*, Artitude Kunstverein, Berlin, Germany

*Farbe Im Fluss*, Museum für Moderne Kunst, Weserburg, Germany

*Kunstkörperlich - Körperkünstlerlich 3, Bodies*, Kunsthalle Dominikanerkirche, Osnabruck, Germany



*Walk This Way*, KOES, Museum Of Art In The Public Space - Koege, Denmark

*Do Not Think*, Awangarda Gallery at BWA, Wroclaw-Breslau, Poland

*Meanwhile In Deepest East Anglia Thunderbirds Were Go*, Von Der Heyt Museum - Wuppertal, Germany

*Wilde Zeichen*, Kunsthalle Krems Forum Frohner - Krems, Austria

*City Mechanisms*, The 30 Gallery - Prague, Czech Republic

*What is Contemporary Art*, Museum of Contemporary Art Roskilde, Denmark

*I Don't Need Your Money Honey All I Need Is Love*, Traffic Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2010

*Hacking the City*, Museum Folkwang,- Essen, Germany

*Street as Studio*, Kunsthalle Wien - Vienna, Austria

*Sub-Glob 2*, Örebro - Konsthall, Örebro, Sweden

*Gestures*, Museum of Contemporary Art Roskilde, Denmark

*Newspaper Research & Reading Room*, Christophe Daviet-Thery, Paris, France

2009

*Backjumps volume 4 #1*, Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien – Berlin, Germany

*Black River Festival*, Vienna, Austria

*Nuart*- Stavanger, Norway

*Urban Art*, Museum for Moderne Kunst, Weserburg, Germany

2008

*Call It What You Like*, Kunstcentret Silkeborg Bad, Denmark

*Fresh Air Smells Funny*, Kunsthalle Dominikanerkirche, Osnabruck, Germany

2007

*It's the Thought That Counts*, Backjumps Volume 3, Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, Berlin, Germany

*Adaptation*, Peacock Visual Arts, Aberdeen, Scotland

2006

*Anti Climb Fence*, Seven Seven gallery, London, England

2005

*Our Work Makes Us Free*, Backjumps volume 2, Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, Berlin, Germany

*Fresh Milk*, Milk Gallery, New York, NY, USA

2004

*Santa's Ghetto*, Laz, Inc., London, England

2003

*The Beauty is the Act*, Urban art info, Backumps volume 1, Berlin, Germany

### **Public Projects (Commissioned)**

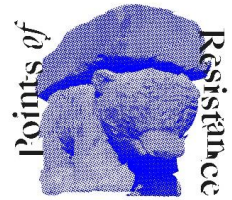
2013

*Fountain*, Kunstverein Lendhauer, Klagenfurt, Austria

2012

*Portrait of My Father*, Flux Projects, Atlanta, USA

*Bike Nettelbeckplatz*, Wedding Walls, Berlin, Germany



2010

*Operation Beton*, KUNSTHALLE Wien, Vienna, Austria

*General 21 the Star Destroyer*, (in collaboration with Erik Tidemann), Storaas Festival - Storaas, Norway

*The Beginning and the End*, Dockville Festival, Hamburg, Germany

2009

*I'm Lovin It*, ARTotale, Lephana University, Urban Art Project, Luneburg, Germany

*The Bi-Product of The Process*, (in collaboration with Erik Tidemann), Storaas Festival, Storaas, Norway

*The Sleeping Policeman*, Art-Boom Festival, Krakow, Poland

2008

*Bench Marks, Rubbish, and Apple Tree*, Names Fest, Prague, Czech Republic

2007

*Long Weight*, Ashford O Temporary Artworks for the Tour de France and received a SEEDA Arts Plus award, Ashford, England

*Ladder Stick Up*, Peacock Visual Arts, Aberdeen, Scotland

2006

*3 Site Specific Works*, Conjunction, London, Birmingham, Stoke on Trent, England

*A Rose With A Thorn In Its Side*, Rottenrow Workshop and Dragon Bar, London England

2005

*The Rules Of Space*, (ICA) Institute of Contemporary Art London, London, England

2004

*American Paranoia*, (in collaboration with Tahu Deans), Lummus Park, Miami, Florida

#### **Awards/ Grants/ Residencies:**

2013

Kulturstiftung Stormarn

2011

10th Internationaler Syrlin-Kunstpreis

Oxylane Foundation - Artist in Residence - Berlin Germany

2010

Museum Quartier 21 - Artist in Residence and Stipendium - Vienna Austria

2008

Goethe Institute- Amsterdam - project production grant/ Residency

2007

SEEDA Arts Plus award - project production grant/ Residency

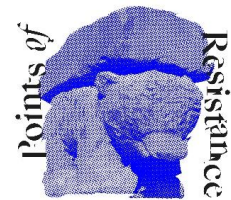
2006

Anita Shapolsky Foundation - project development award/ Residency

2002

Toy Shop Collective - Evolutionare Zellen award from Neue Gesellschaft fur Bildende Kunst - Berlin, Germany, Grant

School of Visual Art - Post Production Grant



**Selected Lectures/ Teaching Experience/ Workshops:**

2013

Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art Helsinki, Finland

2011

Turner Broadcasting Station, Atlanta GA, USA

Weissensee Kunsthochschule - Spatial Strategies Teacher and Lecturer, Berlin, Germany

2010

Akademie der bildenden Kunste Wien- Lecture - Vienna, Austria

*Screening Battle*- Pixel Gallery- lecture- Copenhagen, Denmark

2009

*OFFSET*-2 week workshop - Manchester, England

Ecole Nationale Supérieure D'art De Bourges, -workshop- Bourges, France

2008

*Play With The City*, Tate Modern - Lecture - London, UK

2007

*Taking A Block For A Walk Around The Block.*, Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien – lecture, performance – Berlin, Germany

Kunstakademiet/ Oslo – lecture – Oslo, Norway

2006

*Invisible Monuments*, Pratt institute – lecture - Brooklyn, NY

2005

Borderlines Film Festival – Lecture/slide show – Hereford, England

2004

Not For Human Consumption – slide show, lecture, Canterbury, England

III Communication 2 – Urbis – slide show, lecture, performance -Manchester, England

Institute Contemporary Art London - Branding the street - lecture- London

Cube - Street Logos –lecture- Bristol, England

2003

Doku und Gespräche, Eiszeit – lecture– Kino, Berlin, Germany

Hunter College, graduate documentary program - visiting lecturer, Manhattan, NY

2001-2002

Project Reach Youth Film and video teacher- Brooklyn, NY

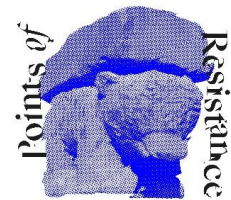
**Public Collections:**

Von der Heydt-Collection Museum Contemporary Art, Roskilde KØS Museum Of Art in Public Spaces The Reinking Collection The Farook Foundation The Samawi Collection The Teuchler Collection

**Selected Bibliography:** Books and Exhibition Catalogues

2012





*BIOS - Konzepte des Lebens in der zeitgenössischen Skulptur*, exhibition catalogue,  
published by Georg-Kolbe-Museum Texts by Marc Wellmann

2011

*Hacking the City*, exhibition catalogue, Edition Folkwang / Steidl Edited by Sabine Maria Schmidt

*The Vanity Project*, Publisher: OneStarPress, Text: Monika Vykoukal

*Spontaneous Sculptures*, Publisher: Gestalten, Text: Jennifer Thatcher, Mel Gooding

*Farbe Und Fluss*, Publisher: Kerber, Text: Peter Friese, Bernd Neumann, Jens Bohrnson, Guido Boulboulle,  
Ingo Clauss, Raimar Stange

2010

*Street As Studio: From Basquiat to Seripop*, Publisher: Verlag Modern Kunst Nurnberg, Text: Gerald Matt,  
Catherine Hug, Thomas Mießgang, Interview with Thomas Mießgang

*Urban Interventions: Personal Projects in Public Spaces*, Publisher: Gestalten, Text: Michalis Huebner, Alain  
Bieber

*Beyond The Street: The 100 Leading Figures in Urban Art*, Publisher: Gestalten, Text: Patrick Nguyen

*Beton Blumen* (in collaboration with the Teuchtl Collection, Publisher: Museum Quartier with support from  
KUNSTHALLE Wien, Text: Michalis Pichler

2009

*Urban-Art*, Exhibition catalogue from the Urban-Art Show at the Weserburg, Museum of modern Art,  
Publisher: Hatje Cantz Verlag, Text: Ingo Clauß, Sotirios Bahtsetzis and Stephen Riolo

2008

*The Adventures of Darius and Downey As Told To Ed Zipco*, Publisher: Thames and Hudson, Text: Jen  
Thatcher, Swoon and Ed Zipco

*Street Art*, Publisher: TATE MODERN, Text: Cedar Lewisohn

*Call It What You Like*, Exhibition catalogue *Call it What You Like*, Art Centre Silkeborg Bad, Text: Sven  
Nommensen

*Working Drawings and Other Visible Things on Paper Not Necessarily Meant To Be Viewed*, Put together by  
Michalis Pichler, Publisher: Revolver

*Fresh Air Smells Funny*, Exhibition catalogue *Fresh Air Smells Funny*, Kunsthalle Dominikanerkirche  
Osnabrueck, Text: André Lindhorst, Rik Reinking

2007

*Adaptation*, Exhibition Catalogue *Adaptation*, Peacock Visual Arts, Text: Giles Bailey

*Street Renegades: New Underground Art*, Publisher: Laurence King, Text: Francesca Gavin

#### Articles And Reviews:

2009

(Jan) - ART Magazin - *Die Neue Stadtguerilla*, Text: Alain Bieber

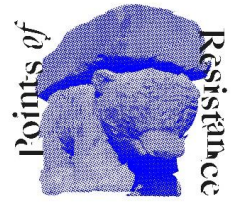
2008

(April) # 190 - Kunstforum - *Fresh Air Smells Funny*, Text: Hajo Schiff

(May 5) - TAZ - *Das Krokodil hat sich verbissen*, Text: Jan Joswig

(Feb 16) - The Gaurdian Weekend Magazine - *A Sign Of Good Times*, Text: Esther Teichmann

[www.points-of-resistance.org](http://www.points-of-resistance.org)



(March) - Art Investor - *Urban Affairs*, Text: Evelyn Pschak

2005

(July-August) - Art Review – *Top 25 up-and- coming London Artists*, Text: Charlotte Edwards