

## ***Teenager***

By Graciela Kasep

The primary motive in Oscar Cueto's (Mexico city, 1976) work has been to question the god-like worship that generates around contemporary art and its artists. In earlier works, he appears as an underdog figure in disadvantage against the power struggle that exists in the art world. He is a martyr of himself, of the creative process, the curator, the gallery owner and, above all, the critics. *Adolescente* is a show that not only demonstrates the recent work of this discerning artist, but also a new way of approaching the themes that are so characteristic of his work.

Cueto is no longer a victim of the contemporary art world. He now advocates an artist who acts in a more immediate and innocent manner, behaving as a perpetual teenager, hence the term "adolescente". He understands the artistic process to be an exercise of trial and error, in which the principal sources are fantasy, visceral reactions and the emotional pretensions are non-existent. On the contrary; materials, techniques and composition are imperfect and, as a result, give out vulnerable work.

Meticulously modified objects play with the capacity of the artist, the teenager - to fantasize and transform something into reality, a process that does not cease to be a series of failed attempts.

This perpetual teenager does not recognize limits; he moves between what is sensible and what is measured, while constantly exposing himself in search of risk, and ironically, what greater risk than being part of the contemporary art world? With these works, which are a result of moments of self-reflection and doubt, once more Cueto seems to unfold and manage to recognize himself inside what he, himself, purposefully admonishes.

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