

Galerie Duret

Leesi

Born in 1990

Leaves and work in Seoul, South- Korea

He is a young realistic sculptor



It was by serendipity that Leesii first came across these images. He was wandering the internet, looking for inspiration, going from link to link, when some portraits caught his eye: children of African origin, confident, assured, beautifully dressed, on the website of an adoption agency. He was directly moved by the contrast between the beauty of these kids and the painful origin of these photos. For him, these orphans sent out a message of hope, of radiance. They had chosen to show themselves to the world in this light, facing adversity in the expectation of a better future. They seemed to have come to terms with their condition. It was this power of self-determination that inspired the artist's depictions of self-assured young boys and girls.

First with cement, a building material so common that we end up forgetting it. The artist saw in this material something unfinished, still in development, also reminiscent of a certain precarity. The children appeared as vulnerable, porous and unstable figures.

It was then with resin that he was able to best transcribe the strength he had seen in these personalities. Greater particle density, more homogeneous colors: the volume appears more held together, more united. The draperies become denser, the reliefs more assertive, and with them the children's posture define itself. They appear as proud and active subjects. The free, unrestrained brushstrokes allowed by the technique make the characters vibrate and insufflates them with energy. Whether they're standing, hands in pockets or straddling an angle, they exude the same vitality. It is also through this gesture that the Korean sculptor moves away from miserabilism and turns these beings into serene muses.

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Not only does the artist seek to highlight these difficult stories, often forgotten and yet close to us: he also turns these characters into heroes, fully capable of deciding for themselves about their lives. For Leesii, these sculptures are not meant to say something about society. His desire is above all to underline the message of hope that these orphans convey. Through their expressions, stance or actions, he highlights their freedom and ability to act to offer themselves a brighter future. They seem to produce their own light, to write their own destiny.

