

Additional questions for Mauro  
Wednesday 17 August 2011

Mauro

**1) How can a concept like 'identity' be explored, expressed and even created through art? Or are we chasing an impossible reality?**

Art is an instigator of perceived identity : it leads the spectator to formulate an opinion of who the artist is.

But this is not important. What is important is what the art does for the spectator.

In my opinion when an artist is so concerned with self recognition, he-she is not mature yet, even though people might relate to the experiences and feelings that are personal to the artist. Art has to be free from all restrictions.

\*\*\* Globalization has increased the need for personal 'identity', hence the prominence of the

concept of 'identity'.

People chose to express their identity through 'accessories' : Art has been particularly embraced in this way.

In conclusion art is now central to the concept of identity.

**2) Do you see your own artwork as 'dissident', or is something altogether subtler?**

I definitely have the potential for being a dissident but, as I live in one of the most democratic societies for which I have the greatest respect, I would find that being a dissident, even at times, would be a bit of a cheap shot.

**3) Do you try to put your heritage into your art? If so, how?**

I was born in a country with so much heritage but I have absorbed at least as much from the other countries I have lived in.

Having said that the best example is my sculpture "Modern Heroes" which blends to perfection my heritage : Hollywood and Michelangelo.

**4) How do religion and art come together?**

With difficulty as they always have.

**5) Tell us a little about the work 'Buddah'.**

I had a show in 2006 called BLAST, I was pissed off about Iraq and it was very war oriented.

I decided to introduce a Buddha in the show as a calming influence.

Ironically so many people have Buddhas in their homes even when they don't follow his preaching, just as with Jesus or Mohammed.

**6) Tell us about what you see for your future.**

I don't think about it, it's like window shopping.