

Christian LAVIGNE ★ cybersculptures



ASTARTE, QUEEN OF AFRICA

robosculpture - 1997
plexiglas - 79x27xH114(cm)

This work is inspired by ancient eastern mythology. Astarte was a goddess of love and war. Astarte is a Phenician name for Ishtar, ambivalent mesopotamian goddess: Star of Sunrise, she is bellicose; Star of Sunset, she is a voluptuous lover. Astarte temples could be found in Tyr, Carthage and Cyprus. Herodotus said that every woman, in Babylon, a time at least in her life, must to sit down somewhere in the temple's goddess, and must to wait a stranger who gives her some money, saying: "Give yourself in the name of the goddess!". She have to follow him and to make love with him (sacral prostitution). These myth and rituals are good exemples of timeless symbolic crossbreeding. Perhaps, goddess cult have also taken place in Black Africa; however that may be, this character is an interesting subject for deep thought on African woman status.

This sculpture was designed by computer, with mathematical curves and numerized silhouette of real black girls. CAD-CAM files are created to command a water jet cutting machine, in order to cut thick Altuglas. Then, pieces are assembled to make the sculpture. Thanks to the CRITT Techniques Jet Fluide et Usinage de Bar-le-Duc, Yves GODEFERT et Raffael MASIELLO.

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