



Via Mercato Vecchio, 16  
Todi (PG)

## **ROLF JACOBSEN: *Chthonic Totem***

**Opening: Tuesday 8 December 2015 at 17:00**

LNJ unonell'unico is pleased to announce **Chthonic Totem**, an exhibition by the Danish artist **ROLF JACOBSEN**, opening on Tuesday 8 December 2015 at 17:00 in the exhibition space LNJ unonell'unico in Todi (PG).

This site-specific installation consists of two totemic sculptures whose presence completely fills this small archaeological space and creates a dialogue with the stone walls around them. Measuring 2 metres and 2.4 metres tall respectively, the steles are carved in wood – the artist's primary material – which is first charred and then punctuated by ceramic raku disks. A strong structural and chromatic relationship is thus created between the columns, since the black of the charred surface echoes the tonality of the raku ceramics, which remain this colour unless glazed. Such earth tones blend beautifully with the light-coloured limestone walls that encircle them, and the viewer literally participates in the artist's vision and research, interacting with the work and absorbing the essential elements of space, volume and movement.

A great experimenter with techniques and materials (wood, ceramic, bronze and aluminium), Rolf Jacobsen transposes the classic into a modern key to produce sculpture that is absolutely contemporary, with stories from Genesis, Adam born of Eve, Icarus, steles. The figurative aspect unites with the mythological-metaphysical to imbue it with spiritual significance.

Going to the very heart of things, the work inspires reflection on the moment and place of our birth: the earth. The Greek word – *chthonic* – in the exhibition's title means 'of the earth, subterranean, referring particularly to the gods of Greek mythology who lived in the Underworld'. Things return from the Earth to the Earth, perpetuating the cycle of life. Working chiefly with logs, roots and bits of wood discarded by Nature, Rolf Jacobsen collects, selects, studies, assembles, covers them with gesso and paints, often using the same woods and giving them new life and function. From the Earth to the Heavens: this is the meaning of **Chthonic Totem**.

**Rolf Jacobsen**, painter and sculptor, was born in Denmark in 1976. He lives and works in Doglio (Todi) and Copenhagen. In 1995 he began working with the Danish artist Paul Cederdorff, with whom he continues to collaborate. In 1998, he presented his first work in Mariager, Denmark, in *De unge milde*, a collective show by a group of young artists. The following year he came to Umbria to attend the International Art School in Montecastello di Vibio founded by the American artist Nicolas Carone, and formed a strong, collaborative friendship with him. Rolf's first exhibition in Italy took place in 2004, since when he has had numerous individual and group shows both in Italy and abroad; the most recent was his 2013 solo show at the Underdonk Gallery in New York. His painting is abstract-metaphysical; his sculptures in wood, ceramic and bronze seem figurative-fantastical and his work in wood is distinguished by his technique of putting together pieces of diverse origins and forms and fixing them with gesso. For several years he has worked with the noted American artist Beverly Pepper. His most recent work sees him using aluminium shapes formed using the lost-wax method.



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Hours: 8 December 2015 – 6 January 2016 Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 to 12:30 and 15:00 to 19:00

Supported by Primieri Hair. Photography: Rolf Jacobsen©