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DAN COLEN –FRACTURED FIGURE

Dan Colen [New Jersey, U. S. A, 1979] on his "**Untitled**"[2006] introduces as a huge stone that seems to be engraved by a series of gums and functions as a graffiti wall full of sub-cultural language messages on its surface.

The stone reminds a lot menhirs, large upright standing stones for human sacrifices used by **Druids**, functioned as early calendars or as territorial markers. **Menhirs** it is well known that belongs in the megalithic art. This fact is not coincidental: the modern life is being characterized by an embellished brutality and Dan Colen emphasizes that by every mean.

Furthermore the artist points out the blasphemy of the common people against to the religious by their act to stuck gums on something such sacred. In addition to this Dan Colen emphasizes the religious mission of art and that artists act also as priests of this knowledge and as factors to reveal art's mysteries on the audience. Furthermore we must not forget that gum contains a part from the **DNA** of the person who choked it. Dan Colen points out that religion is something so vivid as the DNA of the human race and that the divine element is inside us [the collision of the gums on the ritual stone is the symbol of this thinking].

Of course there is a second interpretation on the work: that we must not respect any religion that supports immoral acts like the human sacrifices of Druids and that art should give this opportunity to the guests who would have wanted to stuck their gum on the installation. The black linen on the base is the symbol of evil that all religions are based on.

The coins in the piece of art could symbolize the commercial option of the contemporary art which violates its sacred, pure and religious mission: to cause a variety of emotions on the viewer, to be a creator of new ideas, to expose

social and political problems to the viewers as a way to resolve them or even to develop different areas of the human brain such as is the fantasy, the creative mood, the abstracted thinking or the practical knowledge.

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