



A BIT OF BOAT

In collaboration with John Fuller.

7 sculptures of 9mm. Marine plywood, stainless steel wire, glue, screws

Olympic Games of the Visual Arts, Organised by Artiade Foundation, Berlin, Germany.

Curated by Tereza de Arruda.

19 Petru Ralli Street, Athens, Greece, 2004.

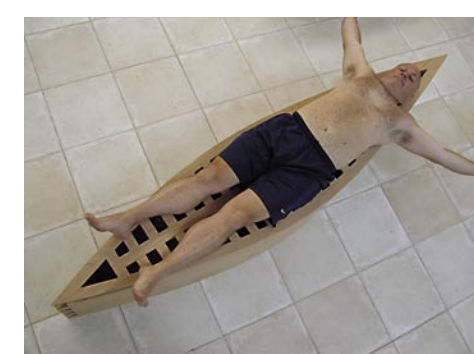


Norbert Francis Attard and John Fuller working at Gozo Contemporary, Gharb, Gozo,
and at Saviour Gauci's carpentry workshop, Victoria, Gozo, Malta, 2004.



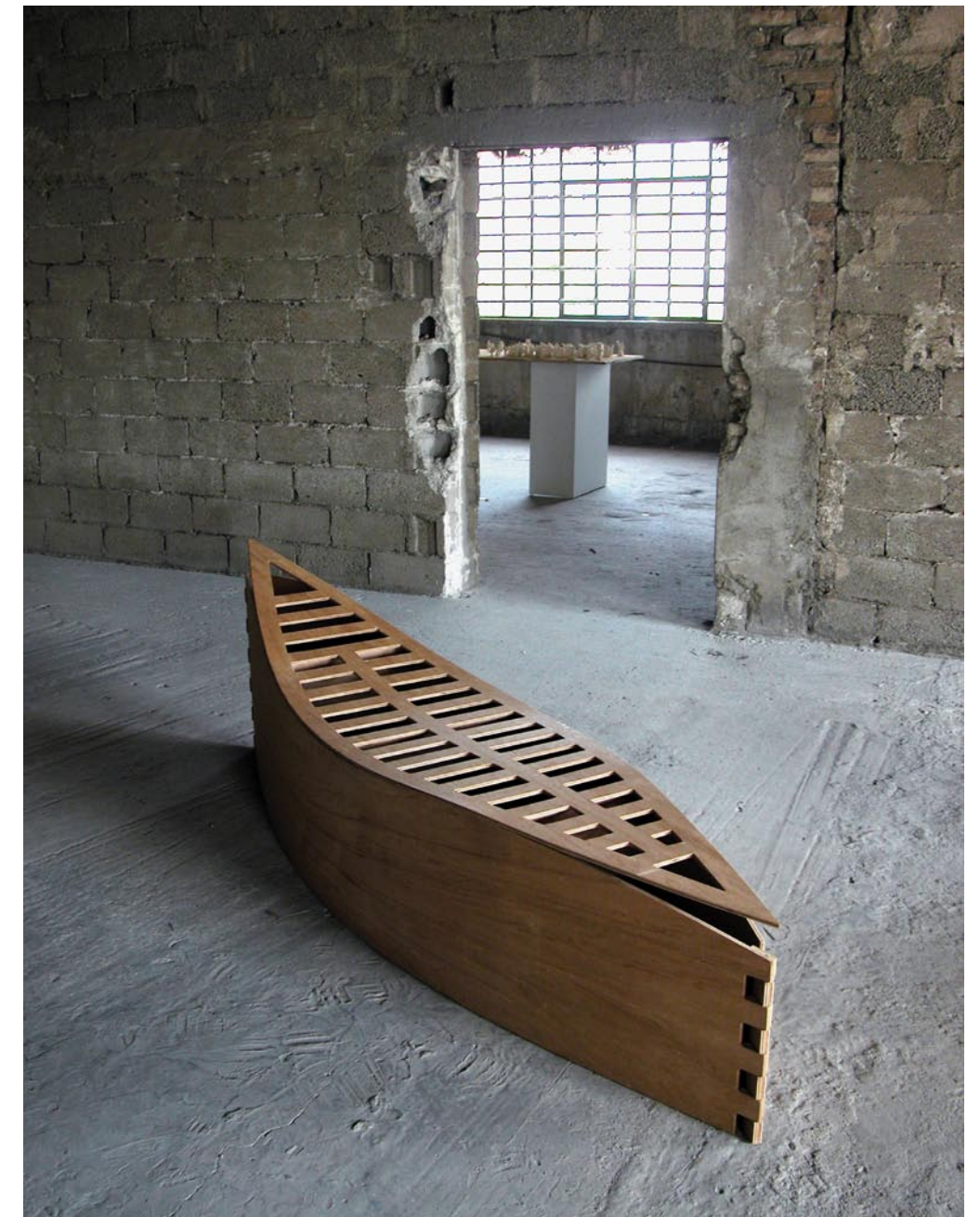
A Bit of Boat includes seven boats, smooth as the joy of a Brancusi sculpture, lined up for a race in that uncanny sea which divides the sculptural from the functional, the aesthetic from the chatter of the everyday world, the object from any shadow it may cast. Thus, this boat's dovetail joints and squares are a reminder of eavesdropping windows and the architectural lines of modern urbanism; the other one's surface is a falling leaf; that boat's flow rhymes the elliptical eye painted on the sides of Maltese traditional fishing boats, the other one's wooden ribs celebrate Phlebas the Phoenician's sensual death by water. *A Bit of Boat* also blurs the boundaries between the strange and the familiar, the present and the past. Thus, water is no longer an abstract layer which supports but also a medium and a channel for movement and transportation. The Mediterranean is returned to its former glory as a source of light and dark, sanctity and sin, war and peace, the oikos, that desire for a return home, and the voyage away from home, a contrast upon which the *Odyssey*, that archetypal voyage, is based upon. The boats recall the part they played in the rise and fall of civilisations, their essential presence in the metaphor of the voyage as well as their ageless race against wind, waves and time.

STANLEY BORG



A bit of boat is composed of seven different individual sculptures. The whole composition works like a theatre production where each object takes on its own role. The work uses the ship-like basic form as a continuation from Boat Race. The care and attention to detail transmits a warmth to the observer that serves as an invitation to explore the object or to even try it out. The smooth surfaces offering a perfect place to relax or lie down. Attard demonstrates the metamorphosis of his works by inviting the observer to become part of the work. This self-portrayal works as a performance to provoke new experiences. The parallels between performance and sculpture arouse an unusual sensibility with controversial and unconventional characteristics: “This new approach throws up more questions than answers to the problems of the relationship between art and reality, art and other objects and art and its manifestation. It is an attempt to capture time and space, change and changeability in the moment.” . bit of Boat is composed of seven different individual sculptures. The whole composition works like a theatre production where each object takes on its own role. The work uses the ship-like basic form as a continuation from Boat Race. The care and attention to detail transmits a warmth to the observer that serves as an invitation to explore the object or to even try it out. The smooth surfaces offering a perfect place to relax or lie down. Attard demonstrates the metamorphosis of his works by inviting the observer to become part of the work. This self-portrayal works as a performance to provoke new experiences. The parallels between performance and sculpture arouse an unusual sensibility with controversial and unconventional characteristics: “This new approach throws up more questions than answers to the problems of the relationship between art and reality, art and other objects and art and its manifestation. It is an attempt to capture time and space, change and changeability in the moment.”.

TEREZA DE ARRUDA















NORBERT FRANCIS ATTARD

9, BIRBUBA STREET, GHARB, GRB 1435, GOZO, MALTA.

TEL: +00356 21560016

FAX: +00356 21559098

MOBILE: +00356 79041051

EMAIL: norbert@norbertattard.com

WEBSITE: www.norbertattard.com