

GLADSTONE GALLERY

HUFFPOST ARTS & CULTURE



VernissageTV ♥ Become a fan
VernissageTV - The Window to the Art World

Damián Ortega at HangarBicocca in Milan, Italy (VIDEO)

Posted: 06/12/2015 9:26 am EDT | Updated: 06/12/2015 9:59 am EDT

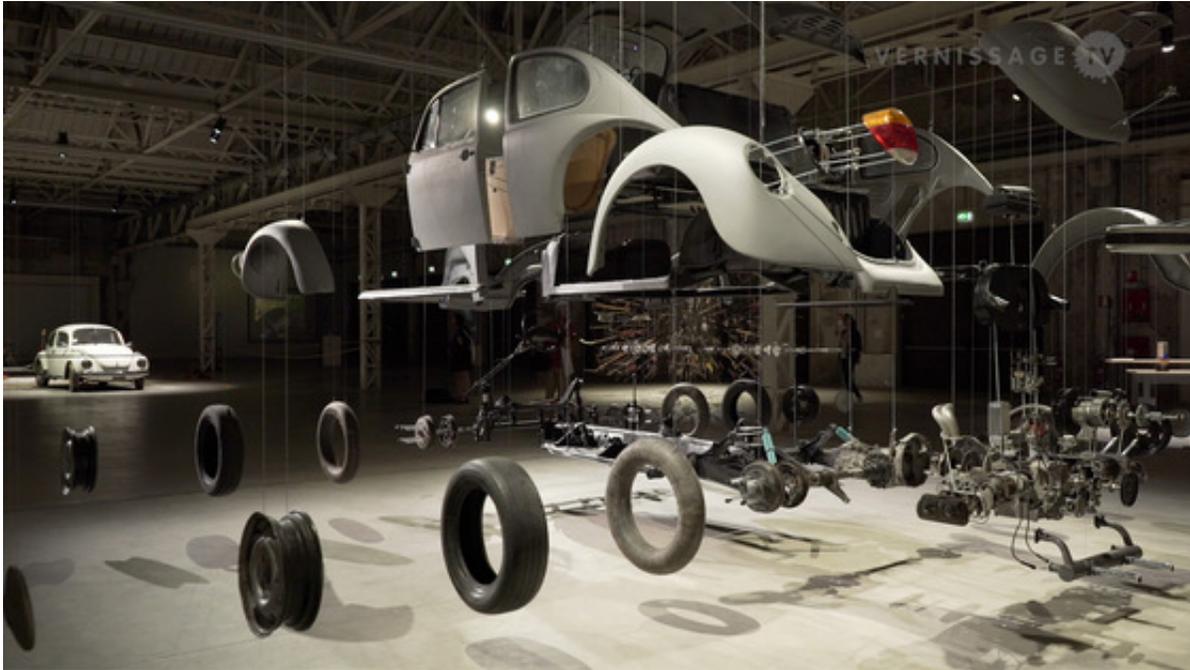
In this video we attend the opening of Mexican artist Damián Ortega's solo exhibition *Casino* at HangarBicocca in Milan, Italy. Curated by HangarBicocca's artistic director Vicente Todolí, the show offers an overview of the artist's work that is characterized by the use of simple or recycled materials. On display are sculptures, installations, and films. On the occasion of the opening, Ortega's performance *Moby Dick* was presented, a work that is part of his *Beetle Trilogy*. The *Beetle Trilogy* revolves around the iconic Volkswagen Beetle car and includes a dismantled Beetle (the installation *Cosmic Thing*), a buried Beetle (the film *Escarabajo*), and a man "fighting" with a Beetle while the Led Zeppelin song "Moby Dick" is played. We had the chance to speak with the artist before the opening of the exhibition. In this interview, Damián Ortega talks about the basic concept of the show, the *Beetle Trilogy*, and his use of everyday objects and materials.



The exhibition at HangarBicocca runs until 8th November 2015. In addition to the *Beetle Trilogy*, the show presents works such as *Controller of the Universe*, an explosion of tools such as saws, pickaxes and rakes, a piece that expresses the artist's skepticism of blind trust in technological innovation, which time transforms into old-fashioned, obsolete forms;

GLADSTONE GALLERY

and *Hollow/Stuffed: market law*, a small replica of a submarine with biodegradable plastic sacks full of salt hanging from the ceiling on steel cables.



Damián Ortega: *Cosmic Thing*

Damián Ortega was born in 1967 in Mexico City. He participated in major exhibitions such as the Venice Biennale (2003, 2013), the 4th Berlin Biennale and the 27th Sao Paulo Biennale (2006), the 11th Havana Biennial (2012) and the 12th Sharjah Biennial (2015). Many institutions have presented solo exhibitions of his work, including the ICA in Philadelphia (2002), Tate Modern in London (2005), the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris (2008) and MAM in Rio de Janeiro (2015).