

Panamarenko (1940 – 2019) was born in Antwerp, the city in which he lived and worked. During his exploratory journey through contemporary visual language, he developed some theories that are indispensable for understanding his current research .

In Panamarenko's work, experience is fundamental, therefore the principle and continuation of his work is making devices and elaborating theories, and setting and resetting the theories as well as the machines.

1968 – He formulates the "Closed System Theory", which leads him to make General Spinaxis (1968), Closed System Power (1969) and Accelerators (1969-70).

1971 – He begins making travel machines (airplanes, helicopters, cars, spacecraft, flying carpets), using propellant and mechanisms inspired to the movement of insect wings.

1974 – He opens a new field of research with the Closed System Theory of Speed Alteration, and begins the study of the Toy Model of Space.

1977/1983 – He focuses his efforts on magnetic fields to exploit these interplanetary forces to make space travel.

1988 – He inaugurates the construction of Archaepteryx, a sort of solar-powered electronic chicken.

1990 - With Elbow and Portuguese Man of War he builds machines for walking with ease and elegance on the surface of the water.

1992 – He entirely dedicates his work to the Toy Model of Space and builds a spacecraft powered by centrifugal force. He took part in many exhibitions and expositions in Europe, the United States, Latin America, Japan.

He hasn't had a solo show in a private space in Italy since 1987, when he took part to "Arte in Belgica", at Galleria Sperone and Primo Piano in Rome.

What Panamarenko exposes in San Gimignano is an impressive journey inside a submarine through sidereal spaces. Breaking through different sizes and substances, the concrete immateriality of a heavenly wandering, four large works (220 x 180 cm), three sculptures (a submarine, a bird, an engine), to listen to the magical silence of an adventure. The poet in the era of technique invented a machine to go elsewhere through water, towards the stars.