

GALLERIA CONTINUA

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TRACES OF WIND

GIOVANNI OZZOLA

OPENING: JANUARY 15TH, 2022

Galleria Continua is honoured to present *Traces of Wind*, an exhibition by renowned Italian artist Giovanni Ozzola, at the beginning of a new year.

This is a long journey. Giovanni Ozzola has transformed Galleria Continua into an island, bringing the starry sky above the Canary Islands in Spain and the surface of the Atlantic Ocean to the gallery space. The viewers will find themselves immersed in the scenery, experiencing the sunrise and sunset on the Atlantic Island, feeling the winds of time blowing through life.

Traces of Wind is not just about breezes. The wind at sea is sometimes violent, sometimes gentle, and only the gravel on the seashore knows about it. Obsessed with the traces of life in time, Giovanni Ozzola always depicts the existence and nothingness embodied in these traces most properly and poetically, be it the graffiti on the walls of empty ruins or the blooming and fading of flowers.

Giovanni Ozzola is interested in juxtaposing objects full of tension and contradiction, such as the sun and the moon shining in the same sky or the words "I love you" written on a mottled and abandoned wall. The artist captures the most soul-stirring moments within tension, leading to the awareness that things are as precious as they are fugitive. The potential of the scenery is brought out to the maximum. The images are imbued with the inherent energy of objects, hence rich and powerful, and able to resist the wear and tear of time and the lasting gaze.

Rather than proficient in capturing the boundaries between humans and nature, whether it's the convergence of ruins and the sea or the interior space where quicksand spreads, Giovanni Ozzola is more adept at capturing the moments when time freezes. When we look at the images he created, the hustle and bustle of reality seem to be shut off suddenly. Ozzola's works are a gateway to what is happening beneath the world, those deep in the sea, high above the sky, deep in the soul.

What is touching is that Giovanni Ozzola remains warm in the face of eternity. In *Counting Stars with You*, although distance appears part of the work, it is not about cheap romance, but the feeling of longing behind loneliness, the awe and love of existence.

Giovanni Ozzola created a theatre-like space in this exhibition, an island full of light, shadow, and wind.

"It's better to go to this exhibition by yourself." This is Giovanni Ozzola's advice to the audience. In the theatre of images created by Giovanni Ozzola, we will confront the world and feel the loneliness constant as new.

Biography:

Giovanni Ozzola was born in 1982 in Florence, Italy and currently lives and works in Tenerife, Canary Islands. He is a multidisciplinary artist working primarily in photography, as well as video and sculptural installation. Ozzola's practice demonstrates a deep sensitivity towards the phenomenon of light and its various physical characteristics. His main thematic interests lie in conceptualising and representing infinitude and exploration, both geographical and introspective.

Starting his career in 2001 as part of the group show, *Happiness: A Survival Guide for Art and Life*, curated by David Elliott and Pier Luigi Tazzi, at the Mori Art Museum of Tokyo in Japan; Ozzola has since exhibited worldwide. His 2021 solo exhibitions include: *Giovanni Ozzola Invites Kiki Smith* at Galleria Continua in San Gimignano, Italy; *Contando Estrellas* at Gazelli Art House in London, United

Kingdom: In 2019, Ozzola made *If I Had to Explain, You Wouldn't Understand* at Fosun Foundation in Shanghai, China: In 2017, He made *Wrecks and Rooms with Stars* at Untitled Association in Berlin, Germany: *Sistemi di Visione/Sistemi de Realtá* at the Centro Espositivo per le Arti Contemporanee, San Michele Degli Scalzi (SMS) in Pisa, Italy: *adrift* at the District Six Museum Homecoming Centre in Cape Town and SMAC Gallery in Stellenbosch, South Africa: as well as *Scars* at SMAC Gallery in Cape Town, South Africa.

Ozzola took part of (RE) BIRTH, curated by Fabrice Bousteau for Abu Dhabi Art 2016, UAE, and *Teoria della nuvola/ Theory of Cloud*, curated by Davide Ferri at Galleria Marcolini in Forli, Italy. Group exhibitions include: *Earth and Ever After*, an exhibition for the 21,39 Jeddah Art event in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and 'YOU + ME - US' at Galleria Continua in Havana, Cuba.

Previous solo exhibitions include *Naufragio*, curated by Ludovico Pratesi at the Centro Arti Visive Pescheria in Pesaro, Italy in 2011: *Routes and Stars* at Galleria Continua in San Gimignano, Italy and *Castaway Depot: 41° 7'31" N16° 52' 0" E - In a Sentimental Mood* at Doppelganger in Bari, Italy in 2012 and *La Théorie des Comètes* at Galleria Continua in Beijing, China in 2013.

Notable group exhibitions include: *Maintenant Ou Jamais!* at Galleria Continua ad Ardian in Paris, France and *The Tides Of The Century*, Curated By Mr Wang Chunchen at Ocean Flower Island Museum in Hainan, China in 2021: *WunderMoRE, MAXXI - Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo di Roma* and *RECTO VERSO* at Foundation Louis Vuitton in Paris, France in 2018: *On Another Scale*, curated by Ricardo Sardenberg at Galleria Continua in San Gimignano, Italy in 2014 and the international touring exhibition *LANDSEASKY: Revisiting Spatiality in Video*, curated by Kim Manchan and presented at Artsonje Center in Seoul, South Korea: OCT Contemporary Art Terminal in Shanghai, China: Guangdong Museum of Art in Guangzhou, China: Griffith University Art Gallery and MAAP SPACE in Brisbane, Australia during 2014 - 2015.

In 2015, Ozzola made his South African debut with *Dove Nasce Il Vento* in Johannesburg. This exhibition was first shown at Gazelli Art House in London, UK. That year, he also exhibited in *MoRE Spaces* at the Palazzo Pignorini in Palma, Italy: *Tu Dois Changer Ta Vie*, curated by Fabrice Bousteau at LILLE 3000 in Lille, France, and took part of *Follia Continua!*, under direction of José- Manuel Gonçalves, at Le Cenquatre- Paris, in Paris, France. Among Ozzola's awards are the Premio Cairo (2011), Premio Terna (2008) and Seat Pagine Gialle (2007). Most recently, Ozzola featured in *X: PART I*, a group exhibition celebrating SMAC Gallery's 10 year anniversary.