



GALLERIA CONTINUA

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING LES MOULINS HABANA **ROMA** SAO PAULO PARIS

The St. Regis Rome, Via Vittorio E. Orlando 3, Roma, Italia
tel. +39 3333870553 | roma@galleriacontinua.com | www.galleriacontinua.com

ORNAGHI & PRESTINARI *TOCCANTE*

The exhibition will be open to the public from 19 February 2021 to 17 April 2021
from Tuesday to Saturday 11am – 7pm by appointment only

To ensure maximum safety, we ask that all visitors book their visit to the exhibition: roma@galleriacontinua.com

Galleria Continua is happy to present in its Rome exhibition spaces, “Toccante”, the solo show by Ornaghi & Prestinari. Some of the most noteworthy representatives of a young generation of Italian artists, Valentina Ornaghi and Claudio Prestinari began to work together in 2009 with a desire to develop each of their projects through dialogue and sharing. This exhibition presents a group of previously unseen works, realised especially for this occasion, that reflect on the theme of “meeting”.

The multidisciplinary approach that Ornaghi & Prestinari perfected during their training as well as their interest for design, architecture and art history have become part of their research. The artists’ work explores the domestic, fragile and intimate dimension of things. Ornaghi & Prestinari’s practice moves between concept and action with a particular attention to the materials and their manipulation. Delicacy, care, time, lightness and irony are the recurring themes of their works. “Mixing together pictorial and plastic figuration, reflections on conceptual art and personal life experience, we invite in an intimate universe (...) through our poetics, we are looking to give a new value to familiar acts. We force ourselves to think of things as united, to not deprive them of their complexity: to make things cohabit rather than separating them. We try to create coexistence and balance, to unite worlds that seem to be distant, to preserve polysemy. With practice, through the daily knowledge of materials, we are challenging ourselves to acquire new abilities. The final form is always the result of a refining process, of working on a specific thing until it starts to speak”, explain the artists.

The works that Ornaghi & Prestinari have conceived for this exhibition are united by the theme of meeting and a relationship with the other. A meeting that presupposes the desire to approach and make contact, as shown in “Rintocco”, where the crystal chalices positioned on a shelf throughout the day get closer together until they touch, similarly in “Sfiorare”, the diptych in which two canvases tilt so much towards each other that they touch in a corner. “The Latin etymology of the word ‘to think’ (pensare) means ‘to weigh’ (pesare). Thought weighs on us and can become heavy just like the relationship between sensory touch and what “touches” us emotionally,” the artists state before continuing, “As we read in an interview with Jean-Luc Nancy: “A weight is not necessarily something heavy. It can be light. For example, a flower petal on my hand weighs almost nothing, but I feel this almost nothing. I perceive its almost weightlessness, I know well that if I turn my hand the petal will fall to the ground, slowly, following the movements of the air. But this petal will not escape gravity anyway, even if a current of air or heat caused it to rise, it would still be a game of its own weight. As for thinking, the heaviest thought is always the lightest ... for example the thought of “being” ... or “time” ...” (from “Sfiorarsi. Intervista a Jean-Luc Nancy”, by Gianfranco Brevetto, EXagere).

“Ritrovarsi”, large glazed ceramic plates that the artists have realised for the exhibition bring us back to the convivial aspect of sharing the table and food together. Each plate, seemingly made up of fragments of different origins, is restored to its original shape after some of its shards have been enamelled. A process that the artists have put in place and which implies the desire to rediscover a design already inherent in the plate; a design that is only revealed with its rupture, underlining how its initial unity was not the end but the beginning of a journey.

The exhibition ends with: “Appendimarmi”, two scraps of marble as leftover cuttings, hung on the wall on a metal support; the silent and immobile landscape of a photograph in “Sentimento”; and “Vuoti”, the drawing of three vases obtained in negative by painting the space around the profiles of the shapes.

In view of bringing the world of childhood closer to contemporary art, starting with Ornaghi & Prestinari’s exhibition, the iconic The St. Regis Rome will conduct workshops dedicated to children for the duration of the exhibition.

Valentina Ornaghi and Claudio Prestinari were born respectively in 1986 and 1984 in Milan, where they live and work. They graduated one in Industrial Design and the other in Architecture at the Milan Polytechnic and continued their studies at the Luav University of Venice. In 2016 they held the first solo exhibition in New York curated by Vittorio Calabrese at New York University - Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò. Among the solo shows are those at Galleria Continua, San Gimignano 2014 and 2018, and at MAMbo - Casa Morandi, Bologna 2017. In 2012 they received the Veneto Region Award from the Bevilacqua la Masa Foundation (Venice) and in 2018 the Club GAMeC Prize. In 2017 they presented the public sculpture Filemone e Bauci for the new ArtLine park of CityLife in Milan. They participated in workshops and residencies, including those at the Spinola Banna Foundation for Art, Turin 2011; VIR-Viafarini in residence, Milan 2013; Artist x Artist, the first international residency in Havana 2016. In 2017 they were the winners of the residency at the Carlo Zauli Museum in Faenza with a final exhibition at the MIC International Museum of Ceramics. Among the numerous group exhibitions, we remember those at the Fondation d’Entreprise Martell, Cognac, 2020; Rocca di Angera, Angera 2020; Gaasbeek Castle, Brussels, 2019; MAAT, Lisbon 2018; Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar 2016; Arte Continua, Havana 2016; Le Centquatre, Paris 2015; Palazzo Reale, Milan 2015.

In compliance with the measures to contain the risk of covid-19 contagion, admissions to the exhibition will be limited.

For further information about the show and photographic material:
Silvia Pichini, Press Office: press@galleriacontinua.com, cell. +39 347 45 36 136