



Conversation Piece / Part IV

(Giant steps are what you take)

**Yto Barrada, Eric Baudelaire, Rossella Biscotti,
Jörg Herold, Christoph Keller, Jakub Woynarowski**

exhibition curated by Marcello Smarrelli

Preview: Saturday, December 16th 2017, 6 pm

Opening to the public: December 17th 2017 – March 18th 2018

Rome, via Fontanella Borghese 56b

PRESS RELEASE

Memmo Foundation presents ***Conversation Piece / Part IV***, a new appointment for a cycle of exhibitions, curated by Marcello Smarrelli, dedicated to Italian and foreign artists who are temporarily present in Rome or who are closely connected to the city in some way. The exhibition will be open to the public from the 17th of December 2017 to the 18th of March 2018 and six artists have been invited to exhibit in it: **Yto Barrada** (Mary Miss Artist in Residence at the American Academy in Rome for Autumn 2017), **Eric Baudelaire** (fellow at the Academy of France in Rome – Villa Medici), **Rossella Biscotti**, **Jörg Herold** (fellow at the German Academy Rome Villa Massimo), **Christoph Keller** (fellow at the German Academy Rome Villa Massimo) and **Jakub Woynarowski**.

Giant steps are what you take – the subtitle of the exhibition – is taken from *Walking on the Moon* the 1979 hit song by the British band *The Police*, in order to express the idea that the act of walking, or the taking of steps, seen as a philosophical exercise, is the inspiration for ***Conversation Piece / Part IV***. In fact every artist can be metaphorically considered as a "walker" who explores different paths and walks along them. These paths represent the multiform theories and research each artist engages in, that are manifested through studies, artworks and exhibitions, and that take shape through several changes of state, which tend, as if in an alchemical process, towards the liberation of light, towards a revelation and towards a meaning. Each of these aspects constitutes a "step" that helps us to enter into the artist's thought and poetic vision.

The theme of "steps" has been examined in an absolutely personal way by each artist: the works of **Yto Barrada** (Paris, France, 1971) appear to be *maquettes*, or the intermediate stages in the production of a series of works that will be presented at a forthcoming solo exhibition by the artist in London, at the Barbican; the video of Eric Baudelaire (Salt Lake City, USA, 1973) is the result of a genuine *promenade* in the centers of various European cities, in which he highlights the unprecedented and intrusive presence of soldiers brandishing weapons typical of urban warfare, but who are progressively blending into our daily cityscapes; the sculpture of **Rossella Biscotti** (Molfetta, 1978) reproduces the twelve steps that the artist had to take during many months of

physiotherapy, and they thus have an autobiographical relevance; **Jörg Herold** (Leipzig, Germany, 1965) proposes an environmental intervention that, starting from the 99 names attributed to Allah, evokes an initiatory process, and an ascending spiritual path; the installation of **Christoph Keller** (Berlin, Germany) subtly reflects on the nature of the moment that precedes the act of creation – nothingness – by means of a discreet and yet effective presence; and finally **Jakub Woynarowski** (Cracow, Poland, 1982) creates – on the windows of *Palazzo Ruspoli* overlooking *Via del Corso* – an atlas of the signs and symbols that have recurred at different times in history, thereby delineating an artistic and historical pathway consisting of unexpected and mysterious correlations that question our usual historical periodizations and the disruptive role of *avant-garde* movements.

All of the works on display have either been created especially for the exhibition or have been adapted for the exhibition spaces of the *Fondazione Memmo*, thus making them, to all intents and purposes, previously unexhibited works.

Conversation Piece – the project

Conversation Piece was born from the desire of the Fondazione Memmo to constantly monitor the contemporary artistic scene of the city and, in particular, the activities of academies and foreign cultural institutes, where they traditionally complete their formation new generations of artists from all over the world. Through these exhibitions and other initiatives, the Memmo Foundation wants to become an amplifier for the work of these institutions. The title of the cycle is inspired by one of Luchino Visconti's most famous films, *Conversation Piece* (1974), a clear metaphor of confronting generations and relationships of hatred and love between ancient and modern; *Conversation Piece* was also a diffuse pictorial genre between the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, characterized by groups of people conversing among themselves or educated in family attitudes. In addition to representing an opportunity for dialogue and dialogue with Rome, the exhibition offers a moment of discussion between different artistic personalities in order to bring together different energies, knowledge and methods into one single event.

Rome, November 2017

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PRESS MATERIALS:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/50vpvpy1jh5444o/AADWU2DVthg4iJCURYR_0pg8a?dl=0

INFO

Exhibition: *Conversation Piece / Part IV*

Curator: Marcello Smarrelli

Assistant curator: Saverio Verini

Place: Memmo Foundation, via Fontanella Borghese 56/b, 00186 Roma

Preview: Saturday, 16th December 2017, 6 pm

Opening to the public: December 17th 2017 – March 18th 2018

Hours: daily from 11 am to 6 pm (closed on Tuesday)

Free admission

Information: Benedetta Rivelli: +39 06 68136598 | artecontemporanea@fondazionememmo.it | www.fondazionememmo.it

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS (4-11 years):

Sunday, February 4, and Sunday, March 18, 2018

only by booking by writing to Daphne Ilari (daphne.ilari@gmail.com)

The proceeds will be fully devoted to Theodora Onlus Foundation

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