

FONDAZIONE MEMMO

Conversation Piece / Part V

(There is no longer any beauty except in the struggle)

Rebecca Digne, Invernomuto, Julian Rosefeldt, Marinella Senatore

an exhibition curated by Marcello Smarrelli

Inauguration date: Saturday 15th December 2018, 6pm

Open to the public: 16th December 2018 - 24th March 2019

Fondazione Memmo

Rome, via Fontanella Borghese 56b

PRESS RELEASE

The **Fondazione Memmo** presents *Conversation Piece / Part V*, the new stage of a cycle of exhibitions, curated by Marcello Smarrelli and dedicated to Italian and foreign artists temporarily residing in Rome.

The exhibition will be open to the public from the 16th of December 2018 to the 24th of March 2019, and it will focus on four artists: **Rebecca Digne** (a fellow at the French Academy in Rome at Villa Medici), **Invernomuto** (a Cy Twombly Italian Fellow in Visual Arts at the American Academy in Rome), **Julian Rosefeldt** (a fellow at the German Academy in Rome at Villa Massimo) and **Marinella Senatore**.

The subtitle of the exhibition: *There is no longer any beauty except in the struggle*, comes from a passage of the Futurist Manifesto, published by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti in 1909 in the French newspaper *Le Figaro*. This seminal text refers to the work of the artist as a way of taking up a political and intellectual position – as staking a claim to an autonomy and freedom that effects the civil sphere – but also as a manifestation of the self, and of a more interior and intimate dimension.

The works on show will be – in different ways and with different meanings – “manifestos” of several aesthetic approaches and practices, with which the artists will enter into dialogues between each other, as well as with the spaces of the **Fondazione Memmo** and with Rome itself, a city that has always been the epitome of artistic research, a privileged place for the production of works of art, and the inspiration of many theories that transcend the prevailing styles and tastes.

The inauguration of the exhibition, on Saturday 15th December 2018, at 6pm, will be animated by **performances** that will transform the atmosphere of the vernissage into an occasion of great expressive vitality, and genuine public event.

The spectators will be welcomed by the performance of **Marinella Senatore** (b. Cava de' Tirreni – Italy, 1977), who will animate the courtyard of the stables (*Scuderie*) of Palazzo Ruspoli, by directing a dance company and a group of musicians playing live.

Inside the exhibition space a body of works will be displayed that present the highlights of this artist's production for the first time. She has always been characterized by her vital political commitment and activism, with works that include: procession banners revisited in a contemporary

key and placards bearing slogans that exalt the political struggle, posters with images and texts that reflect poetically on the concepts of revolution and democratic participation, a set of illuminations, similar to those that are so popular in small southern Italian towns, which urge us to participate in a liberatory running race ("Renn lieber, renn"), and a bicycle upon which megaphones are mounted, which is surely an ideal way of taking part in a protest march.

The intervention by **Julian Rosefeldt** (b. Munich – Germany, 1965) will also be surprising and intensely expressive. His work generally consists of meticulously staged and choreographed video installations, largely inspired by the history of cinema and popular culture.

With a rather exceptional approach compared to his usual works, the artist has devised a performance for the inauguration of the exhibition, inspired by the iconography of the equestrian monument and the concept of authority that is associated with it. Four living horses will enter the ancient stables of Palazzo Ruspoli, with decorative saddlecloths on which some articles of the Italian Constitution will be embroidered. The text of these articles deals with the concept of equality and the dignity of the person, without any distinctions of sex, race, language, religion, political opinions, or social conditions – values in the Western civilisation we took for granted but which are suddenly put into question by populist movements all over the world.

Invernomuto (Simone Bertuzzi, b. Piacenza – Italy, 1983, and Simone Trabucchi, b. Piacenza – Italy, 1982) investigates sub-cultural universes with the use of various different practices and media, adopting an unexpected "sideways" look at oral traditions and contemporary mythologies.

On the day of the opening they will distribute thousands of copies of a printed fanzine, with the reproduction of a series of drawings and paintings donated to the artists by an elderly Rastafarian in Jamaica in 2015, during the filming of their project *Negus*. It is a fragmentary graphic novel and a personal "manifesto" concerning the Rastafarian cult, which the old man asked the two artists to support and spread as widely as possible. It is an alternative story that can become viral thanks to the contribution of the public. The fanzine will be distributed for the entire duration of the exhibition and simultaneously in the exhibition space of "Mega" in Milan.

In the poetic vision of **Rebecca Digne** (b. Marseilles - France, 1982) the work becomes an instrument that "manifests" a sensitivity directed towards the self, and an intimate personal sphere.

The artist will present her video, *Tracer le vide*, and eleven sculptures from the *A perdere* series. In the video colour and black and white images alternate to show a group of people engaged in the cyclical gesture of knotting a succession of ropes along the coastline from Naples to Marseilles (places that are connected to the artist's childhood), in an attempt to connect the two cities, by drawing landscapes and boundaries that are mental as well as physical. The eleven sculptures form a constellation of abstract architectural figures that allude to the theme of transformation and precariousness and in fact they were created by a method that goes back to the very origins of the art of casting metal sculptures, the lost wax technique, in which the wax evaporates to leave an empty space to the metal molten to be poured into. The loss of the original form, and the passage from wax to metal, is a metaphor and a mirror of the unstable and transitory character of our lives.

All of the works on display have either been created for the exhibition or readapted specifically for the exhibition spaces of the Fondazione Memmo.

The exhibition will also be accompanied by a publication at the start of 2019.

Rome, November 2018

Conversation Piece – the project

Conversation Piece is a series of exhibitions that are motivated by the desire of the *Fondazione Memmo* to constantly monitor the Roman contemporary art scene, particularly the activities of the foreign academies and cultural institutes in the city, where new generations of artists from all over the world traditionally complete the process of their education and training. Thanks to these exhibitions and several other initiatives the *Fondazione Memmo* intends to act as an amplifier for the work of these institutions.

The exhibition cycle takes its name from the English title of one of Luchino Visconti's most famous films, *Conversation Piece* (in Italian *Gruppo di famiglia in un interno*, 1974), and is intended as a metaphor to express the encounter between different generations and the love-hate relationship between the ancient and the modern. The expression “conversation piece” also refers to a genre of painting widespread in the 17th and 18th centuries, depicting groups of family members in conversation with each other in the typical situations of daily life.

These exhibitions, in addition to offering an opportunity for engaging in a dialogue with several Roman institutions, are also a valuable space for encounters between different artistic personalities, so that they can bring together their energies, know-how and different artistic approaches and methods within the context of a single exhibition event.

Over the years, some thirty international artists have participated in *Conversation Piece*, including Yto Barrada, Eric Baudelaire, Rossella Biscotti, Piero Golia, Francesca Grilli and Jonathan Monk.

Fondazione Memmo

The **Fondazione Memmo** was founded in 1990 due to the desire of Roberto Memmo to establish a cultural activity that could bring the general public closer to the art world by giving them a direct knowledge of some of the greatest masterpieces created by the most varied civilizations over the ages.

Since 2012, thanks to the initiative of Fabiana Marengi Vaselli Bond and Anna d'Amelio Carbone, a new exhibition programme has been active, which is entirely dedicated to the contemporary art scenario. The objectives of the Fondazione Memmo include contributing towards developing cultural initiatives related to Rome and its surroundings, establishing international relationships and dialogues with other institutions, and promoting collaborations and interactions between artists and the city of Rome.

Performances, residencies, talks, educational workshops and publications represent an opportunity for celebrating and promoting the present, like an observatory dedicated to contemporaneity that can contribute towards the development of our future.

In 2018 the Fondazione Memmo won the prestigious *Montblanc de la Culture Arts Patronage Award*, thanks to which it intends to initiate a programme of residencies in London dedicated to Italian artists, in collaboration with the British non-profit contemporary visual art organisation “Gasworks”, thereby continuing its activities of discussion, sharing, exchange and connection between artists and institutions in many different contexts.

Press materials and photos at the following link:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/d3aha8hhf8rdwnu/AADtXBMdj_Y2fZXaEwq2_Hnra?dl=0

INFORMATION

Exhibition: Conversation Piece | Part V

Curator: Marcello Smarrelli

Assistant curator: Saverio Verini

Location: Fondazione Memmo, via Fontanella Borghese 56 / b, 00186 Rome

Inauguration date: Saturday 15th December 2018, 18.00

Open to the public: 16th December 2018 – 24th March 2019

Opening hours: from 11am to 6pm (closed on Tuesday)

Free admission

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

www.fondazionememmo.it

TEACHING WORKSHOPS (4-11 years):

Sunday 17th February and Sunday 24th March 2019

by reservation only, by writing an email to Daphne Ilari (daphne.ilari@gmail.com)

The proceeds will be donated to the Theodora Onlus Foundation

PRESS OFFICE OF THE EXHIBITION:

Maria Bonmassar

office: +39 06 4825370 / mobile phone: + 39 335 490311 | ufficiostampa@mariabonmassar.com

With thanks to:



ACCADEMIA TEDESCA ROMA
VILLA MASSIMO

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME



VILLA MÉDICIS
ACADÉMIE DE FRANCE
À ROME



Laboratori:

