

M77GALLERY

MILAN

M77 GALLERY (Via Mecenate 77)

FROM MAY 30TH TO SEPTEMBER 27TH 2014

LUCA PIGNATELLI

OFF PAPER

Artworks on paper

Paper exposes Luca Pignatelli's visions

The solo show presents original artworks created on paper and marks the debut of M77 Gallery, a new space for Italian and international art.

M77 Gallery (Via Mecenate 77) in **Milan**, a new exhibition space for contemporary Italian and international art, opens to the public with a show by one of the most interesting artists, **Luca Pignatelli**, who has stood out over the last twenty years with his ability to engage in a richly contemplative original study with plenty of critical ideas on the theme of memory.

The **Off paper** exhibition runs from **May 30th to September 27th, 2014** and presents a wide selection of artworks on paper for the first time.

Paper exposes the visions of Luca Pignatelli, accomplished by pursuing designs locked away in the vaults of memory, which are identified by studying space-time frequencies and are tuned into the cyclic nature of the events of Western contemporaneity. The world designed by Luca Pignatelli is an amalgam of reality and mythology.

The subjects are cities blocked in the moment of insight traversed by stopped trains waiting to pull out of mysterious stations, which became architectural details even before the railroad was invented, and constructed on paper in the works by Primaticcio, Serlio, D'Orbay and Mansard, set against possibly arboreal, abstract or zoomorphic backgrounds.

The show, taking place 15 years after Pignatelli's last solo show in Milan, proposes **different size works on paper alternating tiny formats with vast sheets and two 275 x 400 cm "boards", also made out of paper but with a waxy feel to the touch.** Ephemeral, amorphous figures and incomprehensible fragments which invite the public to carefully and calmly evaluate the art work, with time for reflection after viewing it, emerge from the background created with chalks.

As Michele Bonuomo states in his catalogue text, "In Pignatelli's signs and designs there will always be a vital, brilliant fragment which, having also escaped destruction, will be the start of another obsession."

This show marks the transition from large canvases, imbued with cultured popular vocation, to a more Intimist dimension. Viewing these works on paper is to reveal secrets of the *backstage* hidden behind his art, consisting of screens, cuts, tears, stains and intrusions of different materials. Now that the veil has been lifted on the body with which the classic artistic communication system, centred on monumentalism, is presented, one may appreciate the fervour of what artists do and the reflections that probe the universe of ideas beyond the symbolic interpretation of the myth.

Michele Bonuomo again writes, “On tiny scraps of paper or huge surfaces – characterised by an intrinsic expressive quality owing to the fact that these materials are often “found” and not always destined for the purpose – Pignatelli gives form and order to apparent chaos, which however already holds everything within: past memory, present signs and future hopes.”

An M77 catalogue containing a critical essay by Michele Bonuomo accompanies the exhibition.

M77 Gallery, a new 1,000 m² contemporary art gallery, aims to collect the best of Italian art and be available to prestigious international collaborations, above all with American companies who are exploring important paths.

Biographical notes

Luca Pignatelli was born in Milan on June 22nd, 1962, in a home studio, where his father Ercole, a painter and sculptor, created his works.

Enlivened by Giorgio De Chirico's oneiric vision, Mario Sironi's suburban areas and Burri's experimental materiality, in the 80s he consolidated his poetic visions by attending courses held at the Faculty of Architecture, marked in that period by the insights of Aldo Rossi, drawn from time, space and distant cultures. Spurred on by the idea of the sedimentary growth of History, for Pignatelli painting had a special relationship with time: the shared presence of elements and forms that can be ascribed to different eras comes not only from dreams, but is real and lives with his work.

He was driven to visit warehouse sites, storage areas, military deposits and large engineering building sites. He was fascinated by the manner of silent mysteries that embody the anonymous architecture of port cities, with their shipyards and cargo handling facilities; he admired that of the Parthenon, Vignola, Leon Battista Alberti, Loos and Mies van der Rohe, and others encountered along his journeys through the European cities.

Pignatelli is a painter who can handle the challenge of large dimensions and normally works on unusual supports, which are already pictorial in themselves: large tarpaulins, wood, iron and assembled papers, elements he works on, overlaying a range of images; a sort of catalogue featuring mechanical vehicles, ships, planes, metropolitan landscapes and reminiscences of the ancient world represented by the remains of statues and objects. Towards the mid-90s, the canvases being used were from the cargo trains that run along the tracks of Europe, stitched together and patched up, torn by endless journeying but which freeze history and open up perspectives onto other forays within the world of art. His poetry included using photography as an urgent need in his referencing other icons belonging to a golden past. Monumental sculptures of the Roman emperors and horse-drawn chariots, de-contextualised and worked into the canvases with different techniques and solutions, have become an important part of his iconography.

Luca Pignatelli's work has had international appeal since the 90s. Some of his most recent personal shows include Museo di Capodimonte, Naples (2014), Istituto Nazionale per la Grafica, Rome (2011), Galleria Poggiali e Forconi, Florence (2010), 53rd International Art Expo, Venice (2009), Mamac, Nice (2009), Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Naples (2008), Teatro India, Rome

(2007), Annex Plus–White Box and Ethan Cohen Fine Arts, New York (2006), Galerie Daniel Templon, Paris (2005), Galerie Mudimadue, Berlin (2004), Generous Miracles Gallery, New York (2004), Leighton House Museum, London. Some memorable group shows include: Galleria dell'Accademia, Florence (2014), Palazzo Chiabrese, Turin (2014), Museo MAXXI, Rome (2010), Miami Biennial (2010), 53rd Venice Biennale International Art Expo (2009), Musée Olympique, Shanghai, Lausanne (2008), , Palazzo Reale, Milan (2007); MACRO, Rome (2006), 50th Venice Biennale International Art Expo (2003), Palais du Parlement Européen, Strasbourg (2003), Académie Royale de Belgique, Brussels (2002), PAC – Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan (2000), Isetan Tokyo Museum, Tokyo (2000), International Forum, Tokyo (2000), Musée Nicolas Surssock, Beirut (1997), Musée de Pully, Lausanne (1996), XII Quadriennale, Rome (1996).

Milan, May 2014

LUCA PIGNATELLI. OFF PAPER

Milan, M77 GALLERY (Via Mecenate 77)

May 30th – September 27th, 2014

Opening: Thursday May 29th, 7.00 pm

Opening times: Tuesday-Saturday, 11.00 am-7.00 pm

Free entry

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