

## **Giuseppe Gabellone**

curated by Francesco Stocchi

Vernissage **May 4, 6.30pm**

Via Fontanella Borghese 56b, Roma

**5 May – 15 October 2017**

11am – 6pm (closed on Tuesday)

Free admission

*Fondazione Memmo* presents Giuseppe Gabellone's first solo exhibition in Rome, curated by Francesco Stocchi, thereby confirming its mission to promote contemporary art through site-specific creations and new works.

Characterized by a strong formal rigour and a critical approach to traditional artistic media such as photography and sculpture, Gabellone's work is particularly sensitive to the surrounding exhibition space and its various sensory aspects. The artist's approach is a continuation of the tradition of great sculpture's innovators, such as Medardo Rosso, Umberto Boccioni and Arturo Martini: by emphasizing the dynamic relationships between light and shadow, full and empty, the artist expands the concept of sculpture to other techniques and practices, addressing the central issues that arise from his activity, especially in those areas where the mediated experience attempts to replace direct perception.

The exhibition *Giuseppe Gabellone* is characterized by a marked sensitivity to the context and conditions in which the artist's works are exhibited, and he creates them in a close dialogue with the setting, intervening to produce an organic succession of works that is nevertheless always coherent and unified. Each work seems to contain the preceding one, and each new series of works raises questions that are at the foundation of the next creation, gradually evolving over the period during which the exhibition is held. The exhibition is thus perceived as an experience for generating new ideas rather than as the ultimate goal of the artist's development, so that references to past exhibitions and anticipations with those in the future become a key element for viewing Gabellone's aesthetic approach in its entirety and for understanding his work in a coherent way.

With a strong visual impact, the interventions of Gabellone intended for *Fondazione Memmo's* spaces break down traditional separations between the natural and artificial,

the interior and exterior space. This is a synthesis of opposites in which the works do not seem to depend on the location so much as they respond to it, emphasizing the ephemeral aspects of the exhibition, such as its duration, its effects on the transformations of matter, and fragile equilibria between shadow and light.

The visitor is initially disoriented by being in the middle of a rather barren space that is illuminated in a minimal way. It is a container that is modelled "by the force of reduction" and that has become an essential content, since this emptiness intensifies the relationship between the work, the surrounding space and the visitor.

Each of the works on display, realized with the use of various different techniques and media, reveals a progressive deconstruction of the form and function of the language of artistic expression, emphasizing the necessity of sensory experience as a vehicle for intellectual experience.

**Giuseppe Gabellone** (b. 1973, Brindisi) lives and works in Paris. His solo exhibitions include those held at: *GAMEc Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea*, Bergamo (2013); *Domaine de Kerguéhennec*, Bignan (2008); the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2002) and *Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo*, Turin (2000). His most important group exhibitions have been held at: *Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein* (2009); *Centre Pompidou*, Paris (2001); *Museu Serralves*, Porto (2001); *S.M.A.K. Stedelijk Museum voor Aktuele Kunst*, Ghent (2000); *Bonrefantenmuseum*, Maastricht (1996); *Museo d'Arte Contemporanea*, Castello di Rivoli (2000) and *Galleria d'Arte Moderna*, Bologna (1995). He has also exhibited in numerous international exhibitions including: the Venice Biennale (1997 and 2003); the Lyon Biennale (2003); Documenta Kassel (2002); the Biennale of Sydney (1998) and the Santa Fe Biennial (1997).

**Francesco Stocchi** (b. 1975, Rome) is the curator of modern and contemporary art at the *Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen* in Rotterdam. He is the curator of the programme of the *Fondazione Carriero* Foundation (Milan) and he writes regularly about art and visual culture. He currently lives in Amsterdam.

The **Fondazione Memmo - Arte Contemporanea** is housed in the stables of *Palazzo Ruspoli*, a sixteenth-century building in the centre of Rome. In 2012 the foundation launched an exhibition programme dedicated to the contemporary art scene. By organizing and producing exhibitions, performances, residencies, talks, teaching workshops and publications, the intention of the foundation is to contribute to the development of a local cultural fabric, but with a global vision, promoting interactions between the artists and the city of Rome. The exhibitions that have been held hitherto are: *Conversation Piece | Part III* (2016); Camille Henrot, *Monday* (2016); *Conversation Piece | Part 2* (2016); *Conversation Piece | Part 1* (2015); Shannon Ebner, *AutoBody Collision* (2014); Sterling Ruby, *CHRON II* (2013); Sara VanDerBeek (2012).

### **Educational workshops (4-11 years)**

May 7<sup>th</sup> - June 10<sup>th</sup> - October 8<sup>th</sup> 2017.

The exhibition will be accompanied by educational activities for children 4 to 11 years - from May until October - curated by Daphne Ilari.

The works of Giuseppe Gabellone have the imaginative potential to light up children's eyes and imagination through the different languages of contemporary art.

By reservation only: Daphne Ilari (daphne.ilari@gmail.com)

The proceeds will be donated to the *Fondazione Theodora Onlus* (a nonprofit organization).

### Info

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### Opening hours

11am – 6pm (closed on Tuesdays)

### Press office

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