

FONDAZIONE MEMMO

Latifa Echakhch

Romance

Curated by Francesco Stocchi

Press preview: 2 May 2019, 11:30 am

Vernissage: 2 May 2019, 6 pm

From 3 May to 27 October 2019

Fondazione Memmo, Rome

Via Fontanella Borghese 56/b

From **Friday 3 May** the **Fondazione Memmo** is presenting ***Romance***, a solo exhibition by the Franco-Moroccan artist Latifa Echakhch, curated by Francesco Stocchi.

The exhibition will be open to the public until Wednesday 27 October 2019.

Romance stems from the Fondazione Memmo's invitation to Latifa Echakhch to carry out a completely new project based on the impressions that the encounter with the landscape, atmosphere, history, society and culture of Rome have made on her.

The exhibition originates from a process in which the artist has gradually come closer to the city, allowing her to discover, internalize and translate the feelings it has stirred in her over the course of her visits.

The title of the exhibition, ***Romance***, sums up the spirit of Latifa Echakhch's intervention, aimed at representing the various architectural, cultural and geological strata of a city in which different historical periods are intertwined and a multiplicity of languages and expressive ranges are jumbled together. The artist sets out to convey this sense of fascination, intrigue and surprise through an installation realized in the spaces of the Fondazione Memmo (the former stables of Palazzo Ruspoli): an immersive, unprecedented work that recalls – both conceptually and in the technique adopted – the architectural “follies” built out of concrete that adorned the gardens of the late 19th century.

Latifa Echakhch will work on site on the composition of an installation that will take the form of a route punctuated by a series of hollow sculptures made out of reinforced concrete, from which decorative objects of various origins will emerge, creating a stratification of learned and popular references. A path that runs through the exhibition spaces of the Fondazione Memmo and invites the visitor to go on a journey of exploration, amidst caverns, stalactites and stalagmites, mock wooden palisades and objects from everyday life.

In the exhibition project she has conceived for the Fondazione Memmo it is possible to identify some of the different directions in which Echakhch's research has been moving in recent years. In 2018 in fact the artist tackled the theme of Romantic gardens in *Le jardin mécanique* at the Nouveau Musée National de Monaco; that of the layering of traces of the past in the construction work at the Chapelle Saint-Jacques in Saint Gaudens; and that of the evocative power of the discarded or damaged object, as in the broken bell shown in her solo exhibition at the Kiosk in Ghent. As the most recent episode in a flow of creativity made up of references and anticipations that offer us an insight into the artist's poetics, *Romance* attests to the rigour of Latifa Echakhch's work.

This exhibition marks another stage in the process by which the Fondazione Memmo is aiming to foster an encounter between artists from different countries with the fabric of production and the crafts in the city of Rome through the staging of exhibition projects that take a new look at traditional materials and techniques.

INFORMATION

Exhibition: Latifa Echakhch. *Romance*

Curator: Francesco Stocchi

Assistant curator: Saverio Verini

Vernissage: Thursday 2 May 2019, 6 pm

Venue: Fondazione Memmo, Via Fontanella Borghese 56/b, 00186 Roma

Open to the public: 3 May – 27 October 2019

Opening hours: every day from 11 am to 6:00 (closed on Tuesdays)

Entrance free of charge

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

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BIOGRAPHY LATIFA ECHAKHCH

Latifa Echakhch (1974, El Khnansa) won the Marcel Duchamp Prize in 2013 and Zurich Art Prize in 2015. She studied at the École nationale supérieure d'arts of Grenoble, the ENSAPC of Cergy-Pontoise and the École nationale des beaux arts in Lyon.

She lives in Fully in Switzerland, she's represented by Kamel Mennour based in Paris and London, Kaufmann Repetto in Milan and New York, Dvir in Tel-Aviv.

Her work has recently been presented within important events and institutions including Nouveau Musée National de Monaco (2018), Le centre d'art contemporain Chapelle Saint-Jacques of Saint Gaudens (2018), the Kiosk in Ghent (2018), Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen of Rotterdam (2018), The International Istanbul Biennial (2017), The Power Plant Gallery of Toronto (2016), Haus Konstruktiv of Zurich (2015), Lentos Kunstmuseum of Linz (2015), Swiss Institute in New York (2015), Centre Pompidou in Paris (2014 – 2015), Palazzo Grassi in Venice (2014), Musée d'art contemporain de Lyon (2013), Los Angeles Hammer Museum (2013).

Her works are part of many important collections of international institutions such as Nouveau Musée National de Monaco, the Vaduz Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, Zurich Kunsthaus, MACBA – The Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art; MoMA in New York, Lacma in Los Angeles; Tate Modern in London and the Institut of contemporary art of Villeurbanne.

BIOGRAPHY FRANCESCO STOCCHI

Francesco Stocchi (1975, Rome) is curator of the department of modern and contemporary art at the Boijmans Van Beuningen museum in Rotterdam.

He is the curator of the Memmo Foundation's program (Rome) and of the Carriero Foundation (Milan). He regularly writes about art and visual culture. Francesco Stocchi lives in Amsterdam.

FONDAZIONE MEMMO

Fondazione Memmo came into being in 1990 to realize the dream of its founder, Roberto Memmo. The Foundation has displayed masterpieces of every age and every culture, with the objective of bringing a broad public closer to the world of art.

In 2012, the Fondazione Memmo broadens its views with a new exhibition program entirely free and dedicated to the contemporary art scene, promoting the interaction between the artists and the city of Rome.

The aim is to contribute to the development of a local cultural texture in a global perspective, connecting with international realities and opening a dialogue with the local cultural institutions. Through the organization and production of exhibitions, performances, residencies, talks, conferences, educational workshops and art publications, Fondazione Memmo is therefore characterized as an observatory linked to the promotion and divulgation of contemporary artistic research.

The activity of the Foundation is mainly based on two different lines of intervention: a program of monographic exhibitions, the result of residencies dedicated to a guest artist of the Foundation, and a series of group exhibitions dedicated to Italian and foreign artists temporarily present in the territory of Rome.

The monographic exhibitions provide an invitation to an artist called to expand his practice, experimenting with new creative possibilities related to the production of new series of works. The program was started with the artist Sara VanDerBeek (2012), followed by Sterling Ruby (2013), Shannon Ebner (2014) – that inaugurated the new exhibition space of the stables of the Ruspoli Palace –, Camille Henrot (2016) and Giuseppe Gabellone (2017). The personal show of Kerstin Brätsch *_Ruine* (from May 4 to November 11, 2018) and the exhibition of the collective KAYA *_KOVO* are, after Giuseppe Gabellone, the second exhibition project curated by Francesco Stocchi.

Since 2015, Fondazione Memmo launched also a collective exhibition platform, Conversation Piece, curated by Marcello Smarrelli, last year at its fifth edition. The exhibition presents a selection of works by artists temporarily residing in Rome (mostly at foreign Academies or Cultural Institutes).

Through this dual action plan, Fondazione Memmo affirms its bond with the territory and offers itself as an aggregator and as a meeting point for the network of relations composed of the international realities of Rome, with the aim of contributing to the development of the cultural dynamism of the contest, promoting the interaction between artists, the urban fabric, its history, its identity.