

BASTI CHE NON SI SASSI IN GIRO

DEREK DI FABIO / MANUEL SCANO LARRAZÁBAL / GIOVANNI SORTINO

CURATED BY DANIELA BIGI

18 November – 18 December 2014

opening

Tuesday 18 November 7.00pm

With its second **residency/workshop** dedicated to the emerging Italian art, **Progetto Mandrione's** large warehouse at Via del Mandrione 105, the head quarters of **Fondazione per l'Arte**, returns from mid-October, thanks to the presence of three artists particularly esteemed on the emerging contemporary scene, as an operational space: a place in which to test and execute project ideas.

Derek Di Fabio, Manuel Scano Larrazábal and **Giovanni Sortino**, have been chosen from among many that operate in *project spaces* with an intent to self-organize, apply comparative approaches and to pursue those investigations that mark the re-flourishing of independent initiatives. They come from differing backgrounds, divergent and distant locations and their modes of expression are highly differentiated, yet they trace and investigate common ground. Their interests, their friends, their poetics are interconnected and from time to time, in Italy or other European countries, they are brought together by creative or exhibiting contexts.

The three artists – invited by **Daniela Bigi** the ideator and curator of Progetto Mandrione – arrived at the Foundation in mid-October, and day after day they have transformed the vast empty space into a highly personalised collective studio. Here among the instruments of their production: the materials, the found objects and those given or lent by other artists, the rejected works, and those that are complete, they have built up the final exhibition. They have evolved a far more complex dialogue than they might have imagined on paper: they have been free to attempt new processes and to confront and explore new technical procedures.

Underpinning their research are a few key words, one might say *code words*: island, beach, authentic, archaic, colour, weightless, double, structure – and consequently others too: archipelago, theatre, origin, painting.

The Foundation's workshop has been enriched, now according to norm, by the passage of various figures from the art-scene: artists, collectors, dealers, critics, curators, involved either to test the scene or simply to share some time and ideas, outside the usual rhythms and habits of the working week. There is also a movement of collaboration and friendship with those that have inhabited the neighbourhood workshops for decades, diffusing the proud, artisanal, productive and lively character of this unique urban district of Rome, and defining its most complex and compelling character.

On the 18th November the warehouse will be transformed from a chaotic studio into an exhibition space: the **exhibition** constructed collectively over the course of weeks will finally achieve completion in display. The ironic accompanying title *basti che non si sassi in giro* needs no explanation: intuition must serve as guide.

The second presentation of Progetto Mandrione has been supported by Banca Leonardo e Carioca.

PROGETTO MANDRIONE

Progetto Mandrione began last May in a first programme dedicated to Giuseppe Buzzotta, Gianluca Concialdi, Andrea Kvas, Vincenzo Schillaci.

Ideated and curated by Daniela Bigi, the plan is to return in a direct manner, starting from the creative act, the terrains of thought and expressive exploration to the generation of artists that are emerging in the present decade, allowing their complex physiognomy, cultural trajectories and formal approaches to surface, through each successive workshop.

Founded on the idea of shared workspace and time, each project is articulated in two steps. The first phase, consisting of a one-month residency, brings the artists together to work shoulder to shoulder on the production of a series of works with which to orchestrate an exhibition. In the second, the space changes function and is transformed from a workshop scene of productivity into that of a display area.

Fondazione per l'Arte is engaged in researching the Italian art scene and is working to establish a network of similar initiatives within a national and European ambit: its mission is to focus its energies on artists of the Italian scene and to promote the creation of international exchange projects based on shared objectives.

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DEREK DI FABIO

'I am interested in extending the possibility of materials to the relationship between the inhabitants and the objects of a space, focusing on the consistency of these relations, so as to strengthen what is soft and soften what is rigid. The work should engage people like a game, as something that is complementary to our lives: the experience is intended to allow us to reshape our sources and the materials around us. I was born in the suburbs of Milan in 1987 and I studied at the Brera Academy. I have been collaborating with Cherimus since 2010 and from 2012 I have worked with Isa Griese as *2008daughters* organizing participatory performances as form of workshop. I have just finished orchestrating *Yslands audioguide* that explore the borders that bind a community to a place (Almanac Inn, Turin 2014).

In 2013 I worked on two solo shows, *When the sun is out, his house shaped face bathes in it* (Almanac Projects, London) and *Free Range Winter Banana* (Pavillon Social, Lucca).'

MANUEL SCANO LARRAZÁBAL

Venezuelan on his mother's side, and Sardinian on his father's, he was born at Padua on 27th October 1981; he lived at Caracas from 1983 to 1992. He studied at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera and continued his education by participating in workshops with international artists and curators at the Fondazione Spinola Banna and Fondazione Antonio Ratti. In November 2011 he participated at Turin in a strange experiment of co-habitation lasting a week ideated by Roberto Cuoghi and Gian Antonio Gilli. Reflecting on the automatism of those daily actions and reusing the same materials to exhaustion, Manuel Scano or Manuel Larrazàbal or still, Manuel Scano Larrazàbal, redefines his own habits, and consequently, the disposition of the work: reasoning on the concept of belonging, on the dislocation of the subject and on the contrariety of destiny. It is the story of an exodus without rest, of the infinite complexity of a confused and shifting identity.

Among his solo shows are: 2013, *Man Uel Larr Azábal S Can!O*, Room Galleria, Milano; 2012, Cleo Fariselli/Manuel Larrazábal, CRIPTA747, Torino; 2011, *Mirror project n°2*, Barriera, Torino. Group shows include: 2014, *Contromichael*, Museo dell'Alto Garda Arco con MART, Arco; *The Remains of the Day*, Casa Masaccio, San Giovanni Valdarno; *Corso Aperto*, Fondazione Antonio Ratti, Como; 2013, *Arimortis*, Museo del 900, Milano; *T-A-X-I*, Almanac, Londra; 2012, *RECORD*, Fondazione Bevilacqua la Masa, Venezia; 2011, *Posso errare, ma non di core*, GC. AC, Monfalcone; 2010, *Certo sentimento*, Torino; *SI Sindrome italiana*, Le Magasin, Grenoble.

GIOVANNI SORTINO

'Giovanni Sortino was born at Sant'Agata di Militello in 1986, until 2004 he lived at Galati Mamertino a municipality in the Parco dei Nebrodi. He studied at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Palermo and the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera. Since 2011 he has studied at the Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste Städelschule di Frankfurt/Main.

Giovanni's interest is focused on the recreation of small differences generated by the alchemical use of materials, intervals, processes and instruments. From the choice of a colour his painting becomes a system of passage between strata and layers in which what is rejected is condensed to reveal a reference to identity. His paintings are like slices of Swiss-cheese, tasty to eat but also the graphic system of the accidental (Ti voglio bene Caterina)'

Solo shows: *Gianluca, Ian, Paola, Ash, Giovanni, Jack y Strenz*, Frankfurt/Main (2014), *Ber_____la/fa*, L'A Project space, Palermo (2013), *Enhance yr spectrum* (in collaboration with Ian Edmonds), Gum studio, Torino (2012). Group show include: 2013 *Apollo*, Weltkulturenmuseum, Frankfurt/Main ; 2013 *Crema di mente*, Sala del Lazzaretto, Napoli; 2012 *Polline e cerniere*, Casa Morigi, Milano; 2011 *A due passi dal mare*, L'A Project space, Palermo.