

nctm e l'arte

PRESS RELEASE
June 2016

Seminerò perle di principessa in una caverna, (I will sow princess pearls in a cave)

Exhibition based on the *Guha* project by Francesco Bertelé
Sagas, video-performance live, with music performer Nick McMullan
Monday 20th June 2016 at 18.30
Via Agnello 12, Milan
a "nctm e l'arte" project

In the context of "nctm e l'arte", Nctm Studio Legale hosts the exhibition "*Seminerò perle di principessa in una caverna*" by Francesco Bertelé based on the *Guha* project, and the *Sagas video-performance* with music performer Nick McMullan.

The work of Francesco Bertelé develops from the search for an individual relationship with the places in which the artist has lived; places in which the natural dimension has a strong presence and in which he can project his desire for a profound, primary, organic harmony. In an attempt to create this relationship, Bertelé activates connections in time and space, retrieving local tales and myths, unearthing objects and giving rise to different forms of sharing with local figures.

Seminerò perle di principessa in una caverna and *Sagas*, both based on the *Guha* project and realized during the period which the artist spent in Iceland, derive from a reflection in which different themes intersect. One of these themes is that of the artist's studio, intended not only as a material place of production but as a condition for an internal voyage which includes meditation, in-depth study and the re-discovery of both individual and collective memory which, in solitude, emerges more easily from the past. It is a favourable condition for the coming together with the new and with the "other". "*Guha* – writes Bertelé – is the *inner cavern on the outermost edge of the world*, an environmental monument hidden within the bowels of the earth. An invisible refuge for meditating on the nature on which we all depend."

The exhibition includes a series of drawings, photographs and artefacts; some are objects which have been found; a video; an optical device which, like the drawings, take us back through the history of vision to a kind of antique technology. The whole is realised in a sort of diary.

"The exhibition planned for "nctm e l'arte" is designed as a narration of the process of isolation and of the search for the void which I experienced during my stay in Iceland. The search for a void to ensure that there is space for imagination in order to obtain decolonization of it. A conceptual synthesis which has been translated into a practical method of day to day meditation. The finished work is invisible to most, hidden at the end of the path which led me there. Only those who desire to embark on this journey will find it, so discovering their own cavern in their heart.

It is for this reason that this exhibition is made up of various elements, all distinguished by a strong diary-like component. Every one of these elements of unstable boundaries is part of that process of hyper-extension which, as it unfolds, composes the work as unfinished, a constellation of personal elements, linked by the only path possible. My experience. Within the elements displayed in this exhibition there is, however, a hidden code which can lead he or she who deciphers it to the exact location of the cavern created in Iceland. But only one person will be able to do this because some of the elements on display must be destroyed in order to continue.

The unique bond which develops between the artistic work and its only true beneficiary means that he or she must embark on a journey towards the work of art, a personal journey rich in experiences and encounters

which will perhaps lead him towards a private meditation and his or her personal 'cavern in the heart'. The exhibition path will conclude in the ecstatic moment of the projection of the video *Sagas*, a commentary on the seductive and dramatic aspect of the harsh, raw forces of nature, both in Icelandic everyday life and in Icelandic imagination”.

The music performer Nick McMullan will follow the soundtrack of the video live.

The project and the performance were developed by Francesco Bertelé during his sojourn in Iceland in 2015 in the Skafffell – Centre for visual Art in Seyðisfjörður, East Iceland.

The performance of *Sagas* was produced by Francesco Bertelé in collaboration with Nick McMullan and with the Skafffell – Centre for Visual Art, which has further supported the music performer during the production of his performance.

The sojourn at the Skafffell – Centre for Visual Art was made possible thanks to the “nctm-artist-in-residence” scholarship.

“nctm e l’arte” is an independent project and promoter of contemporary art; it was created in 2011 by Nctm Studio Legale, and is managed by Gabi Scardi.

Francesco Bertelé was born in 1978 and lives in Canzo (CO), Italy. Visual artist, graduated as sound technician (SAE College Milan), trainee designer in Permaculture.

He was a founder member of the Mobeel Cultural Association (Venice 2005-2008) together with which he has organised events such as Rough tapes at Opera 2008, Bevilacqua La Masa Gallery, Venice; A4 / 8 studi - Manifesta 7, Parallel Events .

He is the creator and artistic director of Carrozzeria Margot, consortium of artists and curators founded with the aim of rethinking cultural production methods. He has organised events such as CM start up, in Bureau, Viafarini DOCVA [2013]; Via Padova altrove, Swiss Institute, Milan [2012]; A shop is a shop is a shop is a shop, Artissima Lido – Turin [2011]; Collecting Identities: I stay therefore we are. On Oslo a project by FOS, Danish Pavillion, 54th Venice Biennial [2011].

Recently he has been commissioned by ERSAF (Lombardy Regional Authority for Agriculture and Forests) to plan and construct a Natura 2000 Visitors Centre in the Primalpe Refuge in the Foresta dei Corni in Canzo.

Selection of collective exhibitions: Making Sense, Fondazione Palazzo Pretorio, administered by Guido Bartorelli Caterina Benvegnù Stefano Volpato, Cittadella (PD) [2015 in production] ; men & animals, 3rd Land Art Biennial LAM 360°, administered by Vera Tollmann, Mongolia [2014] ; Sinopale IV (Sinop Biennial) , Sinop (Turkey). / The Wordly House by the artist Tue Greenfort, dOCUMENTA (13), Kassel [2012]; VI Biennial of Pisa, edited by Matteo Lucchetti, Pisa [2011]; Skopje Biennial 2009 “the 7 gates”- XIV Biennial of Young Artists from Europe and the Mediterranean [2009]

Selection of personal exhibitions and specific long-term projects: Guha, Skafffell - Center for Visual Art, East Iceland / Centocapre "looking for yule goats" , Auditorium Kunstnernes Hus - KHIO, Oslo [2015]; Centocapre, in A Cielo Aperto, Vincenzo de Luca Association , Latronico (PZ) / From my studio to my studio , edited by Chiara Pirozzi, Galleria DinoMorraartencontemporanea, Naples [2014].



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