

ENGLISH

GALLERIA CONTINUA

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING LES MOULINS HABANA ROMA SAO PAULO PARIS DUBAI

87 rue du Temple, 75003 Paris, France. Tuesday - Saturday 11am-7pm and by appointment
+33 (0)1 43 70 00 88 | +33 06 75 15 16 22 | www.galleriacontinua.com

THE ABILITY TO DREAM

GROUP SHOW

GALLERIA CONTINUA | Paris - From June 23, 2023

Juan Araujo, Daniel Buren, Iván Capote, Marcelo Cidade, Carlos Cruz-Diez, Carsten Höller, Eva Jospin, Ilya & Emilia Kabakov, Kan Xuan, André Komatsu, Julio Le Parc, Jorge Macchi, Qiu Zhijie, Arcangelo Sassolino, Serse, Nedko Solakov, Marta Spagnoli, José Antonio Suárez Londoñ, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Pascale Marthine Tayou, Jonathas De Andrade, Carlos Garaicoa, Osvaldo González, Ahmed Mater, Cildo Meireles, José Manuel Mesías, Sabrina Mezzaqui, Rudi Ninov, Ornaghi & Prestinari, Giovanni Ozzola, Susana Pilar, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Nari Ward, Zhuang Hui

"All'Arte, all'Amore, all'Amicizia. L'unica tripla A per cui vale la pena impegnare il grande dono di essere al mondo."

"To Art, to Love, to Friendship. The only three things for which it is worth committing the great gift of being in the world."

Mario Cristiani, Lorenzo Fiaschi and Maurizio Rigillo, founders of GALLERIA CONTINUA

GALLERIA CONTINUA is delighted to present *The Ability to Dream*, a group exhibition in three chapters at its French spaces in Paris and Les Moulins, and at the Centre Interculturel Leila Alaoui (CILA) in Fontvieille, Provence, marking the inaugural exhibition of this new art centre. This new trilogy follows on from the eponymous exhibition presented at GALLERIA CONTINUA / San Gimignano in 2022.

The Ability to Dream is the title of a documentary produced and directed by Sky Arte and TIWI, retracing thirty years of GALLERIA CONTINUA's history, through the voices and memories of some of the protagonists of this incredible adventure.

On this occasion, GALLERIA CONTINUA would like to thank the artists, craftspeople, curators, professionals, institutions, collectors and everyone else who has supported its project over the years, as well as the entire gallery team for its passionate work and unstinting commitment, and of course the public who passes through the doors of its eight spaces around the world every day.

From 3 June 2023 at Les Moulins, before the Paris and CILA chapters, GALLERIA CONTINUA invites you on an artistic journey through time and space, giving mind and body to the words of its three founders, and devoting an unprecedented and abundant platform to thirty years of work and passion. To give colour to the ephemera of ideas, thoughts and sensations accumulated over the years, this narrative celebrates three feelings - art, love and friendship - divided into three temporal axes - past, present and future.

The Ability to Dream pays homage to all the gallery's artists with major pieces revolving around these values, which will be repeated in the following chapters in Paris and Fontvieille. It is thanks to each of them, to the mark they have left, to their contribution, to the paths

they have opened up, that the history of the gallery has been written, borrowing different silhouettes, shapes, colours and languages.

The Ability to Dream presents a body of work that includes all the artists who have accompanied the gallery on this journey from the outset, as well as those who have joined more recently. Each work on display bears witness to the unique bond that has developed over the years between GALLERIA CONTINUA and the nearly seventy artists it has accompanied, to give concrete expression to the gallery's fundamental purpose: to be a meeting point for everyone, through art and creation. Over the course of its three chapters, *The Ability to Dream* will invite visitors to an immersive experience made up of unusual objects, fantastical characters and installations that play with light and colour or defy the laws of physics, space and time.

GALLERIA CONTINUA opened its doors in San Gimignano in 1990, the brainchild of three young friends who began their adventure in a space on Via della Rocca, in this village in the heart of Tuscany, with the aim of bringing contemporary art to a rural setting, far from the hustle and bustle of the metropolises and major cultural centres. The name of the gallery was born of the desire of the three founders to enhance the link between past, present and future, an ambition shared by all the spaces opened by the gallery around the world over the years.

GALLERIA CONTINUA has expanded over the last thirty-two years and now has eight sites on five continents. It was the first foreign gallery with an international programme to open in China in 2004, before inaugurating its Les Moulins space in the Paris countryside three years later, a monumental showcase for major interventions and exhibitions. In 2015, the gallery embarked on a new journey to Havana, Cuba, with the aim of transcending all types of borders. In 2020, the gallery opened a new exhibition space in Rome, inside the St. Regis Hotel, as well as another in Brazil, in the Pacaembu sports complex (São Paulo), an inclusive space far removed from the canons of the white cube gallery. In 2021, the gallery moved to the heart of Paris, in the Marais district, with an exhibition

space, a grocery shop offering exceptional products from all the countries where the gallery is based, and an ice-cream counter by Gelateria Dondoli. Also in 2021, the gallery opened a new space in Dubai, at the Burj al-Arab, an iconic sail-shaped building located near Jumeirah beach.

This new chapter in the exhibition *The Ability to Dream* unfolds in part of the gallery's Parisian space, which opened in 2021 and remained accessible throughout the fourteen months of refurbishment and work carried out by MBL Architectes. As with all the gallery spaces in the gallery, GALLERIA CONTINUA remains faithful to its attention to the history of the places it occupies, and pays homage to this complex of buildings built in the 16th century, revealing the various imprints of their past.

GALLERIA CONTINUA / Paris embraces the strong themes inherent in creation and the blending of cultures, providing a space for encounters and exchanges around works of art, recounting a vision of beauty that is plural, joyful, cosmopolitan and rich in influences. Conceived as an open environment, this venue hosts atypical programming in a cosmopolitan spirit. Within the exhibition spaces are an Italian-style café where you can enjoy a real espresso, a gelateria by Dondoli, the iconic, award-winning ice-cream maker from San Gimignano, as well as a delicatessen offering a selection of products celebrating the art of living in the various countries where the gallery is based, plus a bookshop featuring a selection of magazines related to contemporary art and culture, books on the artists represented by the gallery, and limited editions.

Through the French trilogy *The Ability to Dream*, GALLERIA CONTINUA demonstrates its sensitivity to contemporary creative practices, preserving the link between past and future. The exhibition celebrates the diversity of places, cultures, individuals and communities that host and animate it, and give it its *raison d'être*.

A first chapter is currently on view at GALLERIA CONTINUA / Les Moulins from 3 June to 27 August 2023. A third chapter will also be presented at the Centre Interculturel Leila Alaoui (CILA) in Fontvieille from 8 July 8 to 10 September 2023.