

WHEN WALLS BECOME DOORS PART 1

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LEILA ALAOUÏ, OSVALDO GONZÁLEZ, SUBODH GUPTA,
JORGE MACCHI, ORNAGHI & PRESTINARI, GIOVANNI OZZOLA,
PASCALE MARTHINE TAYOU, SISLEJ XHAFA, NARI WARD

31.05.2026 – 20.12.2026

GALLERIA CONTINUA / Les Moulins and Leo Orta are pleased to present *When Walls Become Doors*, a two part group exhibition across their respective venues, bringing together works by Leila Alaoui, Leandro Erlich, Osvaldo González, Subodh Gupta, Jorge Macchi, Ornaghi & Prestinari, Giovanni Ozzola, Pascale Marthine Tayou, Sislej Xhafa, and Nari Ward at GALLERIA CONTINUA, and works by Bianca Bondi, Andrea Branzi, Maty Biayenda, Loucia Carlier, Paul Créange, Serban Ionescu, Marc Leschelier, Lucy Orta, Bob Smith, and Zyva at Studio Orta.

The exhibition takes the mock-up as its point of departure, not as a reduction of reality, but as anticipation. These objects do not show what will be, they make visible what could be otherwise. Speculative houses, inverted interiors, porous spaces, unstable shelters, and impossible architectures coexist within a journey that invites us to conceive form as a passage rather than a certainty. Walls cease to be limits and become thresholds.

When Walls Become Doors brings together proposals that question what it means to inhabit, physically, politically, and emotionally, and explores points of convergence between architecture, sculpture, and fiction through objects that open onto new ways of being in the world.

Leila Alaoui

Alaoui's photographs address migration through cracked surfaces and arid terrains, giving form to the personal histories of women and men who have crossed the sub Saharan desert. The marks on the earth echo those carried on the body, visible or invisible.

Osvaldo González

Transparent adhesive tape, plexiglass, and LEDs construct an architectural and spiritual space reminiscent of a temple or cathedral stained glass. González's work explores the emotional experience of space, including silence, solitude, and contemplation conveyed through the simplest materials.

Subodh Gupta

A mountain of stainless steel utensils, found in 80 percent of Indian households, rise into the space, shimmering and monumental. The familiar becomes sacred. Everyday objects, charged with spirituality, transform the domestic into the luminous.

Jorge Macchi

A vertical zipper becomes a fissure in space, a threshold to an invisible world. The work evokes the precise moment when the viewer accepts crossing the boundary between reality and fiction, often called the suspension of disbelief, and opens onto the possibility of other realities.

Ornaghi & Prestinari

Four heterogeneous materials – palissandro santos, alabaster, ceramic, and fabric – coexist within a sculpture that inhabits a liminal territory. Each element carries a different temporality, and their tension produces not harmony, but a productive and unresolved balance.

Giovanni Ozzola

This photographic series explores the relationship between light, horizon, and the inner drive that pushes human beings toward

the edge, a perceptual zone where gaze, body, and space enter suspension. Here, light does not illuminate, it attracts.

Pascale Marthine Tayou

An immersive installation composed of eleven multimedia panels forms a pavilion like structure, combining photographs, natural and artificial materials, and objects collected between Cameroon and the Western world. The work questions the very notion of home, as family, as place, or simply as a space where one feels a sense of belonging.

Nari Ward

Doors fitted with pockets filled with down, a material typically used to protect the body from the cold, become borderless portals, spaces of anticipation and hope where fragility and independence coexist in a single gesture.

Sislej Xhafa

A bourgeois table with a reflective surface holds a series of plates decorated with a keffiyeh motif, subtly introducing a historical and political resonance into a domestic interior, a tension the artist describes as a "quiet duplicity."

About GALLERIA CONTINUA:

GALLERIA CONTINUA is a contemporary art gallery founded in 1990 in San Gimignano by three friends - Mario Cristiani, Lorenzo Fiaschi and Maurizio Rigillo - and now present in San Gimignano, Rome, Beijing, Paris, Les Moulins, Havana and São Paulo.

GALLERIA CONTINUA aims to create continuity between eras, enhancing the link between past, present and future, in order to actively contribute to the making of art history. In over thirty years of activity, the gallery has developed a strong identity that embraces the strong themes inherent in creation and the blending of cultures. Its spaces around the world invite visitors to encounter and exchange around works of art, recounting a vision of beauty that is plural, joyful, cosmopolitan and rich in influences.

GALLERIA CONTINUA / Les Moulins is an emblematic site of the industrial heritage of the Paris suburbs, located in Boissy-le-Châtel, in the Grand Morin valley near Coulommiers. The gallery's first space in France, this monumental and unique forty-thousand square metre space has become a creative incubator, giving rise to exceptional site-specific productions and avant-garde projects, as well as a pioneering art education programme.

GALLERIA CONTINUA / Les Moulins

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