



GALLERIA CONTINUA

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING LES MOULINS HABANA ROMA SAO PAULO PARIS

Via del Castello 11, San Gimignano (SI), Italia
tel. +39 0577943134 | info@galleriacontinua.com | www.galleriacontinua.com

GIOVANNI OZZOLA

Atto Unico / Single Act

Opening Saturday 29th May 2021, via del Castello 11, 3pm-9pm

Until 31st August 2021, Monday to Sunday, 10am-1pm, 2-7pm, by appointment only

In order to respect safety regulations, it's necessary to book your visit via the appropriate form on galleriacontinua.com

“The journey neither ends nor begins. We are in it. At rest. On the boat that goes “into the light that dazzles” of another day that begins, or that dies. We will become indistinct in the great light, and no longer alone.”

Pier Luigi Tazzi

Galleria Continua is pleased to present *Atto Unico / Single Act* an exhibition project by Giovanni Ozzola, specifically conceived for the gallery's spaces. Like a theatrical piece, everything occurs and is contained within an all-encompassing image that contemplates a multitude of aspects within itself. The exhibition, designed for the tower's spaces, represents the extremes that are the essence of life: day, night, masculine, feminine, interior, exterior. A *unicum* that includes multiple truths; harmony and contrasts come together in a dense poetry that holds philosophical and universal questions.

The intervention reveals the specificity of Giovanni Ozzola's research that, while embracing different artistic practices - in this case photography, sculpture and installation - is characterized by an investigation that always starts from the observation of the visible world, space and light. Additionally, a dialogue with painting crosses all fields of his practice and is ever-present.

The exhibition itinerary begins with *Tā* 她 他 (2021), a photographic diptych: on one side, the profuse image of pink light that illuminates an interior, on the other, a blue light that like a blade opens up a passage in the darkness. “*Tā* in Chinese, indicates both he and her, the pronunciation is the same, only by adding other details can one understand if the *Tā* is he (他) or she (她), or it / it (它) when it refers to things or inanimate objects. In written language one can clearly see the difference, while in spoken language everything remains suspended, as in a poem. The very concept of *Tā* harmoniously contemplates and includes contrast. This suspension is conceptually the beginning of the exhibition”, explains the artist.

The entrance serves as a point of union and passage to the two other exhibition areas. In the first room, the artist intervenes with an installation that redefines the space by creating a new horizon. The technique of printing on concrete is the *modus operandi* that has characterized Ozzola's work for many years. “The openings that pierce the walls are urban scars, places with such strong symbolism that

they become archetypal, they offer us an opening to other worlds. They complement each other; to us who look, they give a sense of symmetry, because in those walls we can protect ourselves, in that light we can instead navigate and lose ourselves (...) closed environments that offer a distant perspective allow us to live an exclusive experience, of solitude, which is a word as complex as it is open to the most diverse interpretations. The marks and graffiti are the scars that remind us of our passage. Those structures are our skull and the perspectives are our gaze.”, the artist remarks. Giovanni Ozzola places a group of bells recovered from shipwrecked or demolished ships in the second room. “Bells used to signal one’s position; an affirmation of the self. I am here, in the night, in the dark, or simply with my eyes closed, I feel, I occupy this place, I am part of what surrounds me but I am a center, a nerve center.”, the artist says. *Atto Unico / Single Act* ends with an installation that ideally brings us back to center, to ourselves. To our vocal cords that vibrate, like the cords from which the bells, occupying the heart of the ancient tower, hang.

Born in Florence in 1982, **Giovanni Ozzola** currently lives and works in the Canary Islands, Spain. He has exhibited his work internationally in numerous public and private institutions, including: MAC - Museo De Arte Contemporaneo De Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil, Gangnam-Gu, Seoul, Korea, Habitat Art Space, Shanghai, China, Ocean Flower Island Museum, Hainan, China in 2021; Villa Croce Museum, Genoa, Italy, OCAT, Shanghai, China, Chao Art Center, Beijing, China, Fosun Foundation Shanghai, China in 2020; Roman Forum and Palatine Hill, Colosseum Archaeological Park, Rome, Italy, Centro Fundacion UNICAJA de Almeria, Almeria, Spain in 2019; Palacio de los Marqueses de Moctezuma, Museo Unicaja Joaquin Peinado, Ronda (Málaga), Spain, Fundación Unicaja, CUC Centro Unicaja de Cultura de Antequera, Spain, Rotary Waregem, Claessens Canvas, Waregem, Belgium, Foundation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France, Palazzo Mazzarino, Palermo, Italy (MANIFESTA 12 collateral event), MAXXI - National Museum of XXI Century Arts in Rome, Italy in 2018; Untitled Association Lynchen, Berlin, Germany, Macro, Rome in 2017; District 6 Museum, Cape Town, South Africa, Sms, Pisa, Italy, Abu Dhabi Art, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in 2016. His works are kept in numerous private and public collections, including the MART in Rovereto, Italy ; Chelsea Art Museum in New York, United States; Sharjah Maraya Art Center in Dubai; Mori Museum in Tokyo, Japan; Schunck-Glaspaleis in Herleen, the Netherlands; Künstlerhaus Palais Thurn Und Taxis, in Bregenz in Austria; Man Museum of Art, Nuoro, Italy; Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan; Center d’Art Bastille, Grenoble, France; GC, AC, Monfalcone, Italy; Viafarini Docva, Milan, Italy; Pescheria Visual Arts Center, Pesaro, Italy; OCAT - Contemporay Art Terminal, Shanghai, Guandong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China; 2139, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; District Six Museum, Cape Town, South Africa, Star Museum, Shanghai, China. He has won prizes such as: “Premio Terna” (2008), “The Talent Prize” (2010) and the “Premio Cairo” (2011), Seat Pagine Gialle, Regione Toscana (2007).

In compliance with the measures in place to contain the spread of Covid-19, admission to the exhibition will be limited.

For further information about the show and for photos:
Silvia Pichini, Press Officer: press@galleriacontinua.com, cell. + 39 347 45 36 136