

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLAUDIO PARMIGGIANI



**16 JUNE – 6 AUGUST 2021
SIMON LEE GALLERY, LONDON**

Simon Lee Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition of Italian artist Claudio Parmiggiani in London.

For the past 40 years Parmiggiani has concentrated his practice on themes of memory, absence and silence, in his search for an image, object or assemblage that transcends time and individual experience to evoke a universal, existential truth.

For his fourth presentation with the gallery and his third exhibition in the London space, Parmiggiani presents a suite of new *Delocazione* works. These panels, painted with smoke and soot, filled with the shadowy imprints of books, transform the empty gallery walls into a ghostly library. The volumes that line each shelf appear burnt, dematerialised from physical object to residual outline. An additional single *Delocazione* panel embodies a human figure; the imprint of a vanished presence that haunts the artist's library. Since Parmiggiani initiated the *Delocazione* they have become a recurrent and fundamental element of his oeuvre, amongst his most powerful expressions of absence.

A cast iron bell hangs from the ceiling but rests immobile. Rendered mute by its stasis, its silence has a near physical impact. The stillness of the bell echoes through the gallery, magnified by the shelves, which house charred books similarly void of sound – their words eradicated. Parmiggiani has defined his installations as theatres in which silence is the performance. These works situate the potential of sound at the heart of silence: a silence of plenitude. A secluded *Delocazione* hides away at the end of gallery, here Parmiggiani immortalises a cloud of butterflies as they rise in flight, vividly eternalised in their silent journey their delicate wings flutter in stillness.

Over the course of his career Parmiggiani has developed a concise and powerful vocabulary, gathering objects, fragments and images which he chooses for their evocative power. The artist refers to the sources in this repository as 'presences'. Books, bells and butterflies are an essential part of this lexicon and recurring motifs in his work. Presented in dialogue, they reinforce one another's symbolic significance, revealing new connections in their elucidation of timelessness, humanity and antiquity.

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In these new works, Parmiggiani ultimately articulates an ongoing commitment to his investigation into the human condition and the footprints we leave behind; they invite us to reflect on our quest for knowledge and the fleeting impression we leave in the annals of history.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Claudio Parmiggiani

Claudio Parmiggiani was born in Luzzara, Italy in 1943 and lives and works in Parma, Italy. Parmiggiani's work has been widely exhibited in international museums and collections. His work has been shown six times at the Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy (1972, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1995 and 2015). Solo exhibitions have been held at the Frist Museum, Nashville TN (2019); Accademia di Francia Villa Medici, Roma, Italy (2015); Ex Oratorio di San Lupo, Bergamo, Italy (2014); Chiesa San Fedele, Milan, Italy (2014); Palais des Beaux Arts - BOZAR, Brussels, Belgium (2013); Palazzo del Governatore, Parma, Italy (2010); Collège des Bernardins, Paris, France (2008); Palazzo Fabroni Arti Visive Contemporanee, Pistoia, Italy (2007); The Musée des Beaux-arts de Nantes, Nantes, France (2007); The Grand Palais, Paris, France (2005); Galleria d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, Bologna (2003); Museum of Art, Tel-Aviv, Israel (2003) and Musée Fabre, Montpellier, France (2002). His work is part of the collections of Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Museo de Bellas Artes of Havana, Havana, Cuba; The National Gallery of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland; Mamco - Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Geneva, Switzerland; Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France; Francois Pinault Foundation, Venice, Italy and Museo del Novecento, Milan, Italy.

About Simon Lee Gallery

Founded in London in 2002, Simon Lee Gallery represents artists of diverse generations whose practices explore a wide range of media, from sculpture and painting to video and photography, and who share a broad interest in an exploration of the conceptual. Aiming to provide a significant international audience for its artists, the gallery also regularly punctuates its programme with historical exhibitions and curated group shows, which present shifts in contemporary art practice and thought, whilst broadening the dialogue with artists outside of the gallery's core programme. In addition to its UK activity, in 2012 the gallery opened a space in Hong Kong, which introduced its artists to a wider public in Asia, with a fully independent programme.

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www.simonleegallery.com

Image: Claudio Parmiggiani, *Scultura d'ombra*, 1999. Smoke and soot on board, 150 x 115 cm (59 1/8 x 45 1/4 in.) Courtesy the artist and Simon Lee Gallery.

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