



Diego Perrone
VOID-CINEMA-CONGRESS-DEATH

Massimo De Carlo gallery is proud to announce the opening exhibition of its 2014-2015 season with a solo show of the Italian artist Diego Perrone.

Diego Perrone's universal vision and poetic is deeply rooted in Italian values: it is drawn to a certain mysterious allure of provincial and suburban lives. The artist tiptoes in and out of the shadows hidden behind apparent flawless existences. In the same way his work is visually delicate but slightly unHINGING as it sheds light on the fragility and dark side of life.

In this exhibition, by using diverse mediums, materials and particularly sought techniques such as glass casting and bas-relief sculptures, Perrone translates this sense of physical and mental void into a crude imaginary, which roots stem in the outer-world dimension of myths and legends.

In the first room, the red dragon graffiti that covers the flooring is the perfect host for the artists new cast glass sculptures, inspired by Alexander McQueen's *Armadillo shoes*. Intended as portraits of ears, these new sculptures are casted in an almost alchemical process in which various substances are transformed and evolve with fire without the complete control of the artist: their appearance changes dramatically when hit by the light. These sculptures are also complemented by a series of delicate drawings carefully created with ballpoint on paper.

The mythological leitmotif leads us in the lower floor of the gallery, where it becomes tangible in the recurrent theme of death, presence and absence, that takes the shape of the ambiguous shapes and colours of the debuting series of bas-reliefs: a manual crafting technique which roots are found in the Greek Roman tradition, where it was often used to depict scenes of death and war.

The artist here invites us to contemplate a contemporary idea of void, death and the myth: a row of unoccupied office chairs. As put by the artist "I was fascinated by the chair as it is an object that is born empty". The poorly designed office chair is the trace of an imaginary monotonous and bare life; the dark shades of the materials used, pvc, iron and the sombre blue tones enhance the contrast between the classical technique used and the corporate inspired subject depicted.

Diego Perrone describes the bas-reliefs as the representation of "a dark and constant research that doesn't have to come to any result: my works often try to represent the emptiness of words." The concept of emptiness, and the symbolism with in it, is the common ground on which these new works move: the ancient crafting techniques he has chosen to represent emptiness will leave the viewer questioning the relationship between aesthetic presence and content absence, and vice versa.

Void-Cinema-Congress-Death is a crude *memento mori*.

MASSIMO DE CARLO

55 South Audley Street - London W1K 2QH - t/f +44 (0)20 7287 2005
london@massimodecarlo.com - www.massimodecarlo.com



DIEGO PERRONE

Diego Perrone was born in Asti (Italy) in 1970, lives and works in Milan. His exhibitions include: *Scultura che non sia conchiglia non canta*, Casey Kaplan Gallery, New York (2013); *Il Servo Astuto*, Museion, Bolzano, Italy (2013); *La mamma di Boccioni in ambulanza e la fusione della campana*, CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain, Bordeaux, France (2007); *Totò nudo e la fusione della campana*, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin, Italy (2005). His work has been exhibited internationally in important institutions like: *Nathalie Djurberg & Diego Perrone*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, GB (2008); *After Nature*, New Museum, New York, USA (2008); *The Shapes of Space*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA (2007); *Perspectif cinema 2003-2004*, screenings, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France (2004); *Animations*, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York, USA (2001). Diego Perrone's work has been included in the *53rd Biennale di Venezia - Il Palazzo Enciclopedico*, Venice, Italy (2013) curated by Massimiliano Gioni.

Hard Facts:

Massimo De Carlo, London

55 South Audley Street, London W1K 2QH

From September 4th, 2014 until October 8th, 2014. Open Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00am – 6.00pm

Opening: Thursday September 4th, 2014, from 6.00pm

For further information and materials:

Press Office, Massimo De Carlo

T. +39 02 70003987 – T. +44 (0) 2072872005

press@massimodecarlo.com

www.massimodecarlo.com

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