

## MASSIMODECARLO

### GIANFRANCO BARUCHELLO, MARCEL DUCHAMP

Massimo De Carlo is pleased to present *Gianfranco Baruchello, Marcel Duchamp* opening in its Hong Kong gallery on the 14th of September 2017. The exhibition is an exceptional event, as it will bring, for the first time ever in his sixty year long career, the work of Gianfranco Baruchello in Asia in a solo show. The exhibition will present a selection of works by Gianfranco Baruchello paired with works by Marcel Duchamp, illustrating and assembling a tangible representation of the amity and dialogue, on going in Baruchello's works, between the two artists.

Gianfranco Baruchello is an iconic Italian artist that through his long, and on going, career has tackled a vast array of mediums spanning from painting to sculptures, and including land art, installation and video. Starting from the 1960s' and 1970s Baruchello spent a great deal of time in New York, Paris and Milan where he profitably engaged with the cities ascending art worlds and becoming a first hand witness, and participant, to the flourishing of Art Movements such as Pop Art and Arte Povera frequenting influential historical figures, artist and thinkers, of the last century such as, among others, Jean-François Lyotard, Alain Jouffroy, Felix Guattari and Ileana Sonnabend.

Baruchello has been based in Rome since the early 1970's and in the last few years, after taking part in the momentous Documenta exhibition in 2012 and in the Venice Biennale of 2013, a number of institutions in Europe have dedicated retrospectives to Gianfranco Baruchello, so we are incredibly proud to take his work to China for this lengthy survey of the artists work and to highlight, through the work, his aesthetic and conceptual link with Marcel Duchamp.

In the book Gianfranco Baruchello wrote in 1985 titled "Why Duchamp?" the artist reflects on his relationship with the great French artist, on both a personal and work related level. The search for the meaning of the conceptual, the synthezizing of abstraction and the power of communication through the artistic gesture are topics that both artists cherished dearly: Baruchello through his iconic box compositions and large-scale figurine populated canvases and Duchamp through his abstract paintings and one-object interventions.

Gianfranco Baruchello was, as an upcoming artist in the 1960's enthralled and in awe of Marcel Duchamp's practice, considering him a revolutionary that through his gestures had changed forever the way contemporary art was viewed. On a September morning of the 1962 Baruchello receives a phone call by a friend that informs him that Marcel Duchamp will be in Milan to attend a lunch in his honor. Gianfranco Baruchello leaves for the airport in a hurry and manages to join the group at the restaurant where they are dining and introduce himself to Marcel Duchamp. The following day the two leave for a day trip to lake Como, that is the beginning of a long-lived friendship that lasted until Duchamp's death in 1968. In 1964 Marcel Duchamp curated a solo show of Gianfranco Baruchello at the Cordier & Ekstrom gallery in New York, a show that resulted in acquisitions from both the prestigious MoMA and Guggenheim, we are proud that one of these canvases is in our exhibition in Hong Kong.

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*Gianfranco Baruchello, Marcel Duchamp* celebrates this intellectual, out-of-the-limelight friendship that celebrates Gianfranco Baruchello's oeuvre and his relationship with, not only a dear old friend, but also a mentor, reflecting on simplicity and impact, influence and effortlessness of the artistic gesture, abstractions and statements.

We are delighted to announce that further information about the works will be unveiled during a press presentation – with the exceptional presence of the artist Gianfranco Baruchello. The press preview will take place at the gallery on the 14th of September.

**Hard Facts:**

Massimo De Carlo, Hong Kong  
3d Floor Pedder Building, 12 Pedder Street, Central, Hong Kong  
From September 15th until October 28th, 2017  
Open Tuesday to Saturday, 10:30am – 7.00pm  
Opening: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2017

**For further information and materials:**

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