

Thorsten Brinkmann, Dennis Oppenheim, Anne & Patrick Poirier

IRONIA – TEMPORALITÀ – DÉPLACEMENT

Curated by Lóránd Hegyi

Opening: **Wednesday 17 November 2021, h 17 - 20**
18 November 2021 – 4 February 2022

Galleria Fumagalli presents the **third exhibition** in the series “**MY30YEARS – Coherency in Diversity**”, conceived by critic Lóránd Hegyi to pay homage to Annamaria Maggi's 30-year career at the helm of the gallery. The 8 exhibitions feature recurring themes and surprising connections between 12 artists – followed or represented by the gallery – whose research is placed in different contexts. Each show of the series offers a dialogue between 3 artists on a specific topic, avoiding any conceptual imposition, and letting the works retain their own individual meaning.

The themes “Ironia – Temporalità – Déplacement” (Irony – Temporality – Déplacement) serve as a meeting point between works otherwise generated from different reflections. Critic and curator Lóránd Hegyi presents an unprecedented dialogue between multifaceted American master Dennis Oppenheim, internationally-renowned French couple Anne & Patrick Poirier and the gallery's new proposal, German artist Thorsten Brinkmann.

Showing a severe criticism of contemporary history, politics and social transformation, **Anne & Patrick Poirier** pursue a radical and ironic reinterpretation of history and mythology in order to bring their metaphorical meanings to life and connect them to contemporary attitudes. The selected works offer sharp, provocative visual messages that ironize ancient metaphorical narratives and generate a *déplacement* – a shift – of meaning. The iconic sculpture “Janus” (2017) combines a modern moving record player with the ancient iconography of the two-faced Janus, yet remodeled in a very personal way. The sculpture shows the half heads of Anne and Patrick fused together as a symbol of their symbiosis, in their life and work, and also of their capacity to look simultaneously at the past and the future, at memory and contemporary times.

Renowned for his experimentations in the context of Land Art, Body Art, Conceptual Art, **Dennis Oppenheim** emphasizes – especially in his most recent works – the anthropological contextualization of artistic praxis, focusing on certain attitudes and psychological orientations. The works on view, created from the late 1980s to the early 2000s, are colored pencil and oil pastel drawings made with a quick and genuine touch which have further inspired the creation of sculptures. These drawings are from a period when Oppenheim experimented with the creation of large public sculptures characterized by the use of everyday forms, to which he adds electrical mechanisms, movement, lights, sounds, pyrotechnic effects. The object is, thus, distorted in its purpose and meaning, provoking an effect of psychological and intellectual estrangement in the viewer.

To conclude the triad, **Thorsten Brinkmann** reveals a personal strategy to ironically reconfigure visual reality. His work – which in this exhibition is manifested through the photographic medium and found objects – takes inspiration from both the classical European tradition and the modern avant-garde. The viewer inevitably finds images and concepts that are part of a shared cultural background, yet their unlikely association generates disorientation and new possible meanings. Nonetheless, through this ironic approach to traditional materials, Brinkmann questions the relationship between contingent relevance (that is, temporally representative) and basic anthropological realities.



Biographies

Anne & Patrick Poirier (respectively: Marseille, 1941 e Nantes, 1942) jointly conceive and sign their work ever since their residency at Villa Medici in Rome, which took place between 1968 and 1972 under the direction of Balthus. Eclectic artists, travelers, and passionate explorers of ancient civilizations, they collect materials like modern archaeologists. Critical of the contemporary era, they call upon the great collective narratives of the past to express metaphorical meanings linked to the contemporary anthropological reality. Their heterogeneous body of work (installations, sculptures, photographs, works on paper) raises questions mainly on the themes of fragility and transience of anthropological time, outlining a continuum between past and future, between individual memory and collective history, between knowledge of reality and utopia. They have exhibited in some of the most important museums and institutions around the world, at the Documenta in Kassel (1977) and at the Venice Biennale (1984, 1980, 1976). Since 2017 they have been represented in Italy by Galleria Fumagalli which contributed to the publication of the monograph "Anne et Patrick Poirier" by Flammarion in collaboration with the MEP (Maison Européenne de la Photographie) and Galerie Mitterrand in Paris. In 2021 they have been included in the first and third show of the program "MY30YEARS - Coherency in Diversity" curated by Lóránd Hegyi.

Dennis Oppenheim (Electric City, US, 1938 - New York, 2011) stands out for having joined different artistic movements. Based in New York, he realized his first Land Art work in 1967, duly documented through the photographic medium. During the 1970s he developed a passion for Body Art, thus shifting the place of his impermanent and transitory interventions from the natural landscape to the human body. Dennis Oppenheim also experimented with video, performance, kinetic and sound sculpture. During the 1980s and 1990s he created large-scale installations depicting distorted everyday objects, which seem to challenge the limits of physics. Since his first solo exhibition in 1968 at John Gibson Gallery, New York, numerous exhibitions have been held in some of the most prestigious institutions around the world. In 2010 the artist was invited by Galleria Fumagalli to present a selection of works that showcased his different art experiences. Among the works on view was his monumental mechanized and sound installation "Theme for a Major Hit", conceived in 1974. The works of Dennis Oppenheim have been selected by Lóránd Hegyi to be included in the third and sixth exhibition of the program "MY30YEARS - Coherency in Diversity".

Thorsten Brinkmann (Herne, Germany, 1971) lives and works in Hamburg. After his studies at the University of Fine Arts in Hamburg, first as a student of Bernhard Blume (1997-2002) and then of Franz Erhard Walther (2002-04), Brinkmann has been pursuing a visual research characterized by an amused reflection on society and contemporary historical-artistic culture. Through surprising combinations of everyday objects, waste materials and references to the history of art, the artist offers a new and ironic reading of traditional artistic genres. In his photographs, installations and videos, Brinkmann presents the classic genres of portrait, still life and landscape, yet combining well-known iconographies (which often evoke Dada and surrealist compositions) with forms of contemporary everyday life in order to generate a sense of intellectual estrangement. By doing so, the artist questions the cohesion and interrelationships existing between genres, objects and categories traditionally applied in history. Having included him in the exhibition program "MY30YEARS - Coherency in Diversity" as a new proposal, Galleria Fumagalli decided to represent him in Italy from summer 2021. In September of the same year the gallery presented a selection of his works at the contemporary art fair Miart in Milan.

GALLERIA FUMAGALLI

Via Bonaventura Cavalieri 6, 20121 Milan

From Monday to Friday, 1pm – 7pm

Info: +39 02 36799285 | info@galleriafumagalli.com | galleriafumagalli.com

Press Office PCM Studio | +39 3499267882 | [Silvia.Cataudella](mailto:Silvia.Cataudella@paolamanfredi.com) | silvia@paolamanfredi.com