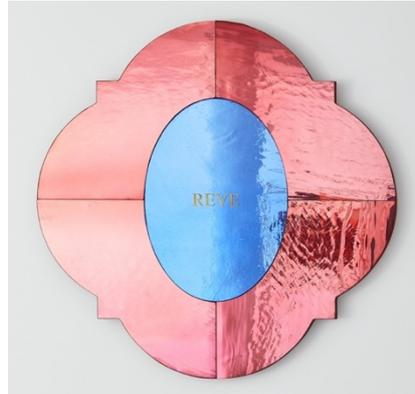


ANNE & PATRICK POIRIER

Hommage à Dante: Enfer, Purgatoire, Paradis

Curated by Lóránd Hegyi and Angela Madesani



Enfer

Casa degli Artisti

10 January - 15 February

Purgatoire

Galleria Fumagalli

13 January - 16 April 2023

Paradis

Antonini Milano - Palazzo Borromeo

13 January - 31 March 2023

Press preview: Tuesday 10 January, 2023, h. 11.00

To participate please email: carlotta@paolamanfredi.com

In January 2023 **Anne and Patrick Poirier** will be back in Milan for the exhibition project curated by Lóránd Hegyi and Angela Madesani, dedicated to **Dante Alighieri's Divine Comedy**, and **supported by the Institut français Milano**. In relation to the subdivision of the poem, the artist couple has dedicated a body of work to **Enfer/Hell**, **Purgatoire/Purgatory** and **Paradis/Heaven**, showing a personal and modern interpretation of Dante's journey into the otherworldly realm. Each cantica (as Dante names the three chapters of his narration) will be hosted in three locations in Milan: **Enfer/Hell at Casa degli Artisti**, **Purgatoire/Purgatory at Galleria Fumagalli** and **Paradis/Heaven at Antonini Milano's venue in Palazzo Borromeo**.

Curators **Lóránd Hegyi** and **Angela Madesani** stated:

«After a long reflection and a free interpretation of the three chapters of Dante Alighieri's Divine Comedy, French artists Anne and Patrick Poirier have created an impressive work that involves the different languages used by the artists over the years.

It all started in the first year of Covid, when the pandemic was raging. During the months of lockdown, in their house in the Provençal countryside, the two artists – who have been working together for over fifty years – decided to reinterpret one of the most important poems of Western literature. They thought that, for the first time, humanity has received a clear message about its end. Thus, they created three coherent yet different series.

In **Hell**, the imaginary and highly symbolic journey, carried out and narrated by the medieval poet, manifests in a quite linear representation of scenes. The dramatic situation represented in Hell – a *bande dessinée*, a long comic, 80 cm high and 30 meters long in which scenes are not separated – is depicted with only two emblematic colors, red and black: blood, life and death. And this is consistent with the dystopias recently proposed in their artistic research. **Purgatory** shows a less dramatic, more pictorial dimension, which implements a wild imagery and a variety of colors. It consists of works that are independent of each other, in which the situation of suspension arises.

The non-representative and immaterial feature of the third chapter matches with the abstract character of Dante's **Heaven**, in which the words evoke intelligible spheres and intellectual and philosophical perspectives rather than depicting figures and actions. Here, the artists work with non-mimetic images, which also reflect luminous and atmospheric phenomena, as well as texts that activate strongly symbolic references linked to Dante's culture but also to that of our time. »

Anne and Patrick Poirier pay homage to Dante, father of literature in the country that hosted them – on the occasion of their residency at the French Academy in Rome, from 1968 to 1972 – which has inspired them for a long time and where they often return in search of a closer contact with classical history and the past. The tribute to Dante's work fits perfectly within Anne and Patrick Poirier's investigation: from the early stages of their joint work at the end of the 1960s, they critically reflect on contemporary society and on the fragility of collective memory, drawing on metaphors, images and great narratives of the past, spanning from classical mythology to ancient architecture, as well as cornerstones of Western literature.

Anne and Patrick Poirier were born respectively in Marseille in 1941 and in Nantes in 1942. Winners of the Grand Prix de Rome in 1967, after studying at the École nationale supérieure des Arts décoratifs in Paris, they spent four years at Villa Medici in Rome (1968– 1972), invited by director Balthus. Since that residency they have decided to combine their artistic vision, jointly signing their works. Travelers and passionate about history and archeology, they focus on the fragility of civilizations, cultures, anthropological time and nature through heterogeneous media, such as photography, drawing on paper, sculpture in resin and wood, neon, maquette, oil and acrylic painting... In fifty years of joint work, their solo exhibitions have been held in the most important institutions, such as (the most recent): Ludwig Museum, Koblenz (2022); Musée de La Roche-sur-Yon (2022); MRAC Occitanie, Sérignan (2021); Château La Coste and Abbaye du Thoronet, Provence (2021); French Academy – Villa Medici, Rome (2019); De Pont Museum, Tilburg (2018); Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire (2018); MEP, Paris (2017); Skulpturenpark Waldfrieden, Wuppertal (2016); MAMC, Saint-Étienne (2016); Jean Cocteau Museum, Menton (2015); Espace Louis Vuitton, Tokyo (2013); MADRE Museum, Naples (2011). Anne and Patrick Poirier have also exhibited at international events such as Documenta, Kassel (1977) and the Venice Biennale (1984, 1980, 1976).

Anne Poirier is a member of the Sculpture section at the Académie des Beaux-Arts, Paris (election dated June 2021 and investiture ceremony held on 26 October, 2022); **Patrick has been elected as a corresponding member of the same section.**

Since 2017 they have been represented in Italy by Galleria Fumagalli which pays homage to them with the first exhibition at the venue: "Dystopia". In 2021 art historian and critic Lóránd Hegyi included the French couple in the series of eight exhibitions "MY30YEARS - Coherency in Diversity": among the twelve artists involved – followed or represented by Galleria Fumagalli – the Poiriers offer unprecedented dialogues and new perspectives, overcoming pre-established categories in contemporary art.

CASA DEGLI ARTISTI – Via Tommaso da Cazzaniga / Corso Garibaldi, 89/A, Milano
Tuesday to Sunday: 12.30 - 19
Info: info@casadegliartisti.org | casadegliartisti.net

GALLERIA FUMAGALLI – Via Bonaventura Cavalieri 6, Milano
Monday to Friday: 13 - 19
Info: +39 02 36799285 | info@galleriafumagalli.com | galleriafumagalli.com

ANTONINI MILANO – Palazzo Borromeo, Piazza Borromeo 12, Milano
Tuesday to Friday: 11 - 13, 14 - 18 and by appointment
Info: +39 02 7712901 | events@antonini.it | antonini.it

PRESS CONTACTS

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