

MATÈRIA

STEFANO CANTO

Sotto l'influenza del Fiume. Sedimento

28.03.2018 – 19.05.2018

Matèria is pleased to host the second solo show at the gallery by represented artist Stefano Canto. The exhibition, titled *Sotto l'influenza del Fiume. Sedimento*, furthers the artist's long-established research in the field of contemporary archeology in relation to Rome and the concept of *liquid* city.

When entering Matèria we find ourselves surrounded by Canto's latest production: scaffolding pipes cover the perimeter of the first gallery room; the structures - sourced from a construction site - develop vertically covering the space from floor to ceiling, inviting the viewer inside a factory where everything present references the inception and creation of sculptural works.

Canto states: *'With this exhibition, Matèria - based in the heart of Rome's university district - becomes somewhat of a small palaeontology museum of the contemporary city and an extension of the University's Department of Earth Science, located only a few hundred meters away from the gallery. The Tiber is the starting point for a reflection on the metropolis, its riverbed is where the city can be found in its true form, characterised by a state of constant mutation. Architectural fragments belonging to different timeframes, alongside organic and non-organic matter of all kinds are accumulated and muddled in one single and homogenous grey mass composed of infinite layers and stratifications in constant flux.'*

This architectural magma finds its solidification within large scale tanks placed in the second gallery room and utilised to recreate the Tiber's microcosm. The cement powder slowly released by a high standing machine specifically designed by the Artist, activates an accelerated process of sedimentation referencing the *'liquid'* city, resulting in a series of highly emblematic contemporary fossils. Canto delegates the creation of his works to this process, amplifying the poetic nature of his practice and allowing the viewer to observe his sculptures throughout the entire production process.

In doing so, day after day, new sculptures/sediments populate the constructed scaffolding and the exhibition mutates, transforming the space in a register for an archeology of the present.

* The body of work showcased commences in 2017 with the exhibition Sedito (Archeologia dell'Effimero), promoted and hosted by Label201 and curated by Manuela Tognoli and Elena Giulia Abbiatici.

Biography

Stefano Canto is born in Rome in 1974, where he currently lives and works and where he received his Architecture degree in 2003. His works are conveyed through the poetry of the 'place' and through the social themes that reside in the relationship between man and architecture. Canto states: *'My artistic practice starts with the observation of what surrounds me; a polymorphous, polisemantic and complex reality comprised of a multitude of elements - each with their own identity, symbolic, communicative and evocative traits - in constant dialogue with each other.'* Sculpture and site specific installations are the artistic expressions of choice for Canto, who frequently focuses on the use of selected materials sourced from the world of construction - such as cement - placed in dialogue with elements found at the opposite end of the spectrum, such as water, ice, plants and organic elements. His works have been exhibited and acquired worldwide by numerous institutions, galleries and organisations such as: Viafarini Milan (2016); Dakar Biennale, Senegal (2016); Matèria, Rome (2016); American Academy in Rome (2015); Kochi Muziris Biennale, India (2015); Museo RISO Palermo (2014); Triennale Museum Milan (2013); Museo Civico del Marmo Carrara (2013); MACRO, Roma (2012); Corpo 6 Gallery, Berlin (2012); Museo Carandente, Spoleto (2010-11). In 2005 Stefano Canto was awarded the Roma Prize (Hadrian's Temple, Rome), and in 2009 the second edition of the Terna Prize (Museo MAXXI, Rome).

Info:

Stefano Canto

Sotto l'influenza del Fiume. Sedito

Through Saturday, May 19, 2018

Matèria, Via Tiburtina 149, Rome

Opening hours:

Tuesday to Saturday, 11am - 7pm

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