

ENGLISH

GALLERIA CONTINUA

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING LES MOULINS HABANA ROMA SAO PAULO PARIS DUBAI

46 rue de la Ferté Gaucher, 77169 Boissy-le-Châtel. Wednesday - Sunday 12pm-6pm and by appointment
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SUBODH GUPTA

MY VILLAGE

from Sunday 18 September to Sunday 14 May 2023

GALLERIA CONTINUA celebrates the 15th anniversary of Les Moulins, its first space in France, with new exhibitions by Subodh Gupta, Michelangelo Pistoletto and Sisley Xhafa, major artists of the gallery, from 18 September to 24 December 2022. In order to mark its pioneering anchoring in this unique area of the Ile-de-France countryside, the gallery is also presenting *La vie des Moulins: a walk along the Grand Morin river, between history and olfactory memory*, an original route along the Grand Morin bordering Les Moulins (the mills), intended for all audiences.

GALLERIA CONTINUA is pleased to present a new solo exhibition by Subodh Gupta, one of the most well-known voices on the contemporary art scene. The exhibition, entitled *My Village*, aims to convey the memories, nostalgia, desires and struggles that permeate the stories of the artist's home country, India.

As well as the frequent formal and symbolic references drawn from the Indian tradition, the starting point of this exhibition is a thought that investigates the education received by Gupta in relation to socio-economic, political and ecological dynamics.

Highlighting the shared nature of this story, which is partly very intimate and personal, the artist approaches the audience with various questions. When one comes into contact with the works on display, it is necessary to ask oneself how we reflect on the objects and how their

images speak to our education, which can be understood as a process of accumulation of information capable of defining the identity and thought of an individual. More specifically, what the artist asks the observer is to reflect on the memory of our first meal eaten, and how this has contaminated the context of the society in which we grew up, how we eat a meal, and the common act of sharing it or not, and what it says on a larger scale about us.

The objects and tools present in the paintings and installations on display are entities that, in their simplicity, interact with the intricate textures of life, its shades, lines and shadows that also furrow the palms of our hands.

Gupta shows, to the public, sculptures in brass and steel, materials found in works such as *Rural Urban* that tease the aesthetic and consumerist desires of today's world. Steel is somewhat typical of post-independence urban India where traditional Hindu beliefs and practices constantly share space with modern Western education. On the other hand, as we see in the paintings titled *My Village*, food, the tools for cooking and preserving meals, together with the ritual of feeding (the needy, the wise, saints, even animals) have constituted a central and recurrent motif in Indian life, both religious and cultural, from its earliest times up until today.

The exhibition presents the artist's vision of life, which is made up of abstract elements, everyday objects, noise and

silence. "In some way, it is my village." Subodh Gupta concludes.

Subodh Gupta was born in 1964 in Khagaul, Bihar, India, the seat of Buddhist learning. He lives and works in New Delhi. One of India's most prolific artists, he has participated in numerous international exhibitions. The objects he uses in his work appear as emblems, icons that codify, with confident simplicity, the complex socio-economic situation and cultural landscape of present-day India. Gupta uses a rich variety of media to express and produce large-scale sculptures, paintings, installations, photographs, videos and performances. It is perhaps above all as a sculptor that the artist should be defined, when one perceives his physical awareness of the object, the aesthetic and symbolic attributes of his materials, and the relationships he creates between space, time and the body.

Subodh Gupta has recently been shown in the exhibitions *Adda / Rendez Vous*, La Monnaie, Paris, France (2018); *Art Unlimited / Art Basel 2017*, Basel, Switzerland (2017); *Subodh Gupta, Everyday Divine*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia (2016); *When Soak Becomes Spill*, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, England (2015); *Everything is Inside*, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, India (2014); *Faith Matters*, Pinchuk Art Centre, Kiev (2010); *The Fourth Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial*, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan; *Altermodern: Tate Triennial 09*, Tate Britain, London; *Who's Afraid of Artists?* Palais des arts de Dinard, Dinard, France (2009).

GALLERIA CONTINUA / Les Moulins is also presenting *La vie des Moulins: a walk along the Grand Morin river, between history and olfactory memory*, an original route along the Grand Morin river bordering the two "Moulins" (mills). During this walk, the visitors' sense of smell is called upon to take them back in time. This unique project was carried out in 2022 as part of the TOURISME CULTUREL 2022 call for projects, initiated by the Regional Office of Cultural Affairs in the Île-de-France. The result of a collaboration between GALLERIA CONTINUA and Magique, a design studio specialising in multisensory creations,, as well as Paf atelier for the installations and the scenography, it aims to enhance the value of heritage and architecture to the

public. The olfactory design was entrusted to Amélie Jacquin, perfumer at Givaudan.

On the occasion of this 15th anniversary, GALLERIA CONTINUA is also presenting exhibitions by Michelangelo Pistoletto: *60 Ans d'Identités et d'Altérités* and Sislej Xhafa: *bride on soil*. Michelangelo Pistoletto, a leading Italian artist and figure of Arte povera, received international recognition in the early 1960s for his early Mirror Paintings, which changed the artistic perspective by placing the viewer at the centre of the image. Sislej Xhafa's third exhibition at GALLERIA CONTINUA / Les Moulins, *bride on soil* presents a new series of works that explore the place of the individual in society in dialogue with the imposing architecture of Les Moulins, once a paper-making factory.

The gallery's first space in France opened in 2007, GALLERIA CONTINUA / Les Moulins is a monumental space of 40,000 square metres with a unique character. Located in Boissy-le-Châtel, in the Grand Morin valley near Coulommiers, the Moulin de Boissy, at 46 rue de la Ferté Gaucher, and the Moulin de Sainte-Marie, at 48 rue des Papeteries, have a rich industrial history, the first written records of which date from the 14th century. GALLERIA CONTINUA / Les Moulins integrates the permanent installations of iconic international contemporary artists represented by the gallery, such as Anish Kapoor, Daniel Buren or Pascale Marthine Tayou.