

ENGLISH

GALLERIA CONTINUA

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING LES MOULINS HABANA ROMA SAO PAULO PARIS

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MOATAZ NASR

Tectonic Shift, Spostamento Tettonico

26/03/2022 - 15/05/2022

Opening Saturday 26 March, via del Castello 11, from 4pm to 9pm

The gallery is open from Monday to Sunday | 10am - 1pm / 2pm - 7pm

In compliance with the public health measures, it's recommended to book your visit at galleriacontinua.com

A vaccine pass will be requested upon entry

Galleria Continua is pleased to host a new solo exhibition by Moataz Nasr in San Gimignano. *Tectonic Shift, Spostamento Tettonico*, is the title of the exhibition **by the Egyptian artist and it involves both iconic works and new productions.**

Moataz Nasr explores traditions and new globalisms, questioning the geopolitical and economic development in Africa and the rest of the contemporary world. **For Nasr, artistic practice is a tool and language that embraces art, sociology, Sufism and history**, with the aim of encouraging dialogue **by overcoming geographical boundaries.** With his work, he brings together different languages to explore **the contradictions of globalization, the connections between past and present**, the ways in which the choices of politics and economics impact on people; but in his work there is also space for the mood of the individual, starting with the sense of powerlessness in the face of the great changes that the world is experiencing today.

Inspired by the **theory of plate tectonics**, the backbone of the exhibition revolves around the idea of change. Moataz Nasr reflects on how the world is in constant transformation, how everything - the entire universe but also each individual - is subjected to an inevitable **evolution.** Change is an effective part of life and manifests itself in both sudden and obvious events and through more subtle temporal passages. "The surface of the Earth, or the earth's crust, started moving about three billion years ago and since then, has never stopped. Long before Earth was identified as the Blue Planet, it was

just a red-hot body of rock, inhospitable to any life form. **The evolution of our planet has created what we could define as the greatest puzzle in history:** large blocks of the earth's crust, the plates, began to move, to collide with each other, forming huge depressions or very high mountains. We are now aware, even if we often tend to forget it, that the surface of the Earth - on which we rest our feet, our life - will never stop changing. The erosive phenomena, the deposition of atmospheric agents and tectonic shifts are destined to occur, they are inevitable and uncontrollable. **We humans are no different from the planet we inhabit.** From the moment we take our first breath, the first cry out of the womb, our inner puzzle begins to form. Everything around us requires that we become part of it, even when we choose not to. To experience what is external to us, we automatically succumb by becoming part of something else, consciously or not. Looking around us, how can we stay on the sidelines? Conflicts, famines, injustices cannot be neglected or ignored: one cannot pretend not to be affected by them. **The world is constantly disturbing us internally, regardless of our desire to detach.** It is impossible - no one has ever succeeded - to find a way to make it stop 'spinning', to change its direction. Everything that happens around us causes **each individual to be pushed from one side to the other, like a tectonic plate;** which, throughout a course of events, changes until it disappears", states Moataz Nasr.

Moataz Nasr was born in Alexandria in Egypt in 1961. He lives and works in Cairo. Among his most recent solo shows we mention:

Moataz Nasr / *Hidden Landscape*, Akershus Fortress, Oslo, Norway (2012); *The Journey of a Griffin*, Villa Pacchiani Exhibition Center, Santa Croce sull'Arno, Italy (2013); *Harmonia*, SMS Exhibition Center for Contemporary Arts, San Michele degli Scalzi, Pisa, Italy (2013); *The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Purgatory and Hell Revisited by Contemporary African Artists*, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, USA (2015); *The liminal space*, Castel del Monte, Italy (2019); *Delicate Balance*, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, USA (2021). Among the most recent group exhibitions: *The See Is My Land*, MAXXI, Rome, Italy (2013); *Senses of Time: Video and Film-based Arts of Africa*, LACMA Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2015), Los Angeles, The Smithsonian National Museum of African Arts, Washington, USA (2016, 2017); *Metropolis. Afriques Capitales*, La Villette, Paris, France (2017); *Ciao Italia*, Musée National de l'Historie de l'Imigration, Paris, France (2017); *Abu Dhabi Art - Beyond*, Al Jahili Fort, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (2018); *The Fabric of Felicity*, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia (2018); *Fiac Hors Les Murs, Jardin des Tuileries*, Paris, France (2019); *Do ut Do*, Pompeii Archaeological Park, Pompeii, Italy; *Orientalismos / Orientalism*, IVAM - Institut Valencià d'Art Modern, Valencia, Spain (2020); *Forever is Now*, Cairo, Egypt (2021); *Never Cross the Same River Twice*, International Contemporary Film Performance, Athens, Greece (2021); *Ithra - Seeing & Perceiving*, King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture, Ithra, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia (2021); *Truc à Faire*, Galleria Continua, Paris, France (2021). Moataz Nasr is the winner of numerous awards, including the Grand Prize at the 8th Cairo Biennial (2001) and the Grand Prize at the 7th Sharjah Biennial (2005). He has participated in international exhibition events: the Seoul Biennial (2004), the Sao Paulo Biennial (2004), the Yokohama Triennial (2005), the Canary Islands Biennial (2008), the Lubumbashi Biennial (2010), the Biennale of Thessaloniki (2011), the Çanakkale Biennale (2012), the Bogota Biennale (2013), the 50th Venice Biennale (2003), the 25th São Paulo Biennale (2004), various editions of the Dakar Biennale (2004, 2012, 2016). In 2017, he was selected to represent Egypt for the 57th Venice Biennale. In 2018, he was invited to participate in the Yinchuan Biennial in China and the International Exhibition of Contemporary Art (ICAE2018),

in Yerevan, Armenia. In the same year, he was also invited to create a site-specific work in the historical sites of Al Ain in the context of *Abu Dhabi Art 2018 Beyond*. In 2019, he took part in the Havana Biennial and in 2021 at the Macao Biennial.

**For more information on the exhibition
and photographs:**

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