



GALLERIA CONTINUA | 30 YEARS

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING LES MOULINS HABANA ROMA

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JOSÉ YAQUE

Maturation

Opening by invitation only: Thursday 23rd January 2020, 7:30pm

The St. Regis Rome, Via Vittorio E. Orlando 3, Rome, Italy

From Friday 24th January 2020 until Saturday 28th March 2020, Tuesday to Sunday, 11 am - 7 pm

Staying true to a constantly evolving dynamic which is committed to developing new forms of dialogue and encounter between diverse worlds, between art and the public, Galleria Continua has the pleasure of marking thirty years of activity by announcing the opening of a new exhibition location: GALLERIA CONTINUA / Roma at The St. Regis Rome.

After the old Cinema Theatre in San Gimignano (original gallery site, opened in 1990), the 798 Bauhaus-style former factory in Beijing (2004), Les Moulins, the two ancient mills in the Parisian countryside (2007) and the cinema in the Chinese district of Havana (2015), Galleria Continua opens a new exhibition space in the Eternal City.

GALLERIA CONTINUA / Roma came about following the successful outcome of the collaboration between Galleria Continua and The St. Regis Rome, which gave rise to a series of exhibitions of international artists at the capital's iconic hotel (Loris Cecchini, Pascale Marthine Tayou and Sun Yuan & Peng Yu, protagonists of the next event in January 2020), activating a constructive short-circuit between contemporary art, hotel guests, global travellers and citizens of Rome.

The three founders of Galleria Continua Mario Cristiani, Lorenzo Fiaschi and Maurizio Rigillo launch themselves into this new venture by establishing a new exhibition space in the Sala Diocleziano on the ground floor of The St. Regis Rome looking out over the garden. Starting from January 24, 2020 GALLERIA CONTINUA / Roma opens to the public with a rich and varied program.

The three founding members' dynamic planning will offer not only a calendar of exhibitions but also talks, meetings, and educational and didactic activities including workshops and laboratories aimed at children staying at the hotel and guided visits for schools. *"We want the exhibitions that we will present in this new space to be a cognitive experience for children, a way to bring them closer to contemporary art by providing them with suitable methods of interpretation, not only for understanding the artistic language of the time in which they live, but also for the creation of stimulating and creative knowledge. The intent is to use art to educate about art,"* say Cristiani, Fiaschi and Rigillo.

GALLERIA CONTINUA / Roma presents itself as a dynamic space open to interculturality. The artist residency program is part of this desire for interaction. Chosen by a committee of experts every six months, it will give young artists from emerging countries the opportunity to stay in the capital, to increase their personal and professional growth by encountering Italy's immense ancient and contemporary artistic heritage, and, lastly, to produce new works that on completion of the residency will be presented to the public in the spaces of GALLERIA CONTINUA / Roma.

The choice of José Yaque as the artist who will inaugurate the new space represents a continuation of the Cuban experience which began with the opening of Galleria Continua Havana. Witness and representative of a gallery experience which aims to weave relationships between cultures, geographies and diverse individuals, Yaque conceptually represents a bridge between Cuba and Rome.

In the exhibition, *Maturation*, he presents a series of new paintings and an installation from the '*Tumba Abierta*' series, an archive in transformation made up of natural elements (plants, seeds, fruits, leaves); new forms of landscape where matter, colours and smells magically transport the viewer to other places.

José Yaque's paintings, material and vibrant, are like windows opening onto the landscape, molten rock that attaches itself to the canvas and acquires a new form. To mix and apply the colours he uses his hands, the force of gravity and vibrations, forming a magma that is transformed once more when he wraps the works with a plastic film. After the drying process is over, the artist removes the protective layer and the result is an eroded painting: the plastic has the same effect on the canvas that wind and water have on the earth's surface. In front of a painting by Yaque, the viewer is captured by the movement and energy that emanates from it: the eye scans the canvas losing itself in its depth and rhythm, in the folds of the surface roughened by complex overlays of colour where everything becomes a dance that pulls you in in an all-enveloping way.

José Eduardo Yaque Llorente was born in Manzanillo, Cuba in 1985. He currently lives and works in Havana.

He studied at "Carlos Enríquez" Professional Academy of Fine Arts in Manzanillo (2005) and the Higher Institute of Art (ISA) in Havana (2011). In 2010 he participated in the first Biennial of Contemporary Art in Portugal and exhibited at Wasps Artists' Studios, in Glasgow, Scotland. In 2012 he won a residence in Warsaw: in Poland he exhibited in the Zacheta Project Room of the National Gallery of Art in Warsaw as part of the collective exhibition "Fragmentos" and achieved, at the National Gallery of Art Zacheta, his first solo exhibition outside national borders.

In 2017, he took part in the collective exhibition of the Cuban Pavilion, in Palazzo Loredan, at the 57th Venice Biennale.

Among his solo exhibitions, we mention: "El dilema del ciempensamientos", Colegio de Arquitectos (UNAICC), Havana (2019); "Calma", Mario Mauroner Contemporary Art, Vienna (2019); "Kind of Blue", David Gill Gallery, London (2018); "Origen", Galleria Continua, Havana (2017); "Alluvione d'Arno", Villa Pacchiani Exhibition Centre, Santa Croce sull'Arno, Pisa (2017); "Tierra Madre", David Gill Gallery, London (2017); "Gravedad", Galleria Continua, Les Moulins, France (2015); "Scavare", Galleria Continua, San Gimignano, Italy (2015); "Magma", National Library of Cuba, Havana (2015). Group exhibitions that feature his work include: "José Yaque and Flavio Garcíandía measure and compare their penises ("fuck...", said Garcíandía)", open studio, Havana (2019); "ABUC", Mai36 Gallery, Switzerland (2019); "Agua Salada", Regla, Havana (2019); "Ola Cuba!", Gare Saint Sauveur, Lille (2018); Art Basel Unlimited, Basel (2018); "Cuban Art Now", Singer Laren Museum, Amsterdam (2017); "¿Soy Cuba?", Palazzina dei Bagni Misteriosi, Milan (2017); "Queen Anne's lacy", Wasserman Projects, Detroit (2017); "Cuba mi amor", Galleria Continua, Les Moulins, France (2017); "The meantime", Voorlinden Museum, Wassenaar, The Hague, Netherlands (2017); "Nido sin árbol", Colegio de Arquitectos (UNAICC), Havana (2016); "Cuarteto", Galleria Continua, Havana (2016); "Transhumance", CAB Art Center, Brussels (2016); "TÚ + YO = NOSOTROS", Galleria Continua, Havana (2015); "Wind and Art Don't Care about Border", Metropolitan Art Society, Beirut (2015); "Anclados en el territorio", Galleria Continua, Havana (2015); "Follia Continua (25 Years of Galleria Continua)", CENTQUATRE, Paris; "Senderos de Bosque", Emerson College/ Ruskin East G. Floor, Forest Road, England, UK (2013).

For further information about the exhibition and for photographs:

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