

FALSE AUTUMN

14.09.2024 – 26.01.2025

Opening Saturday 14 September 2024 | 18.00 – 24.00

GALLERIA CONTINUA is pleased to host a new solo exhibition by Jorge Macchi titled *"False Autumn"*. The work of the Argentine artist is positioned precisely at the turning point between two opposites, in that grey area between the real form and the fictitious form of reality. In a world where art serves as a bridge between the tangible and the intangible, Macchi's work testifies to the power of visual expression, chance, and the enduring influence of personal experiences. His art captures the ephemeral and the transient, inviting us to reflect on the fragile boundaries that define our existence.

The sculptures of various sizes, watercolors, oil paintings, and installations in this exhibition recreate the conditions for a new paradoxical reality that, through the assertion of artifice, upends our certainties and infiltrates the folds of consciousness. *"Paradox is the suspension of meaning. It is one form of humor. It is one of Borges' favorite tools. It is the word that defines much of what I do. The archer and the arrow, Zeno of Elea's aporia, the scene where an arrow aimed at a target never reaches it because the distance between them is infinitely divisible, it is a paradox that has been with me forever"* says the artist.

"False Autumn" is the work that gives its name to the exhibition by Macchi in San Gimignano. In one corner of the gallery, over a thousand leaves are scattered across the floor. As the title (*"False Autumn"*) suggests, these are not real autumn leaves: they are not yellow or red but green. Each one has a unique shape resembling a puzzle piece. A closer look

reveals that these puzzle pieces are made from real leaves, each carefully cut out. This process disrupts the usual harmony between the natural shape of a leaf and its veins, prompting the observer to wonder what possible image could emerge from assembling all the puzzle pieces.

Jorge Macchi's work creates powerful visual fictions; his pieces are artifacts that explore the functioning of vision and perception. *"Rorschach #1"* and *"Rorschach #2"* are two site-specific murals painted in the corners of a room. Similar to the symmetrical images in Hermann Rorschach's famous psycho-diagnostic test, the forms on one wall are imperfectly mirrored on the other, as if the walls could fold onto each other to transfer the image. However, this symmetry is an illusion—the image in the corner is simply a representation of a real symmetrical image made on paper. There is no actual transfer of form or color from one wall to the other. Yet, a question lingers in the space: what if the things we consider stable and durable, like a building, could fold and change their structure?

The play between reality and artifice reappears in *"Dos Banderas"* where one element of the diptych consists of four sheets from the same notepad, while the other is made of sheets from different pads. The ribbon, which seems to hold the sheets together, is painted with watercolor and tempera. In the piece *"Dejà vu"* one half of a wooden table was left outdoors for two years, exposed to sun and rain, and suffered damage. The other half was restored and polished. Now, they are brought together again. Although this process is real, the reunion of the two halves

becomes a melodramatic artifice.

"*Confesión*" is a cardboard box from a 50-inch Smart TV with all sides carved into a repeated cross pattern, resembling the perforated metal of confessionals. The box no longer contains any object; the perforation has transformed it into a visual tool that offers a fragmented view of its interior and what lies behind it.

The series "*Drift Bottles*" refers to a historical experiment used to study marine currents, where bottles containing a document indicating the exact time and place of their release into the ocean were tracked. Once recovered, this information was used to determine the circulation of surface water in the ocean. In Macchi's "*Drift Bottles*", each of the six plastic bottles contains a small ship model crafted by an artisan in Buenos Aires. Unlike the original glass bottles, these are replaced with plastic ones, like those used for mineral water or soda, found in any supermarket.

About the artist:

Jorge Macchi was born in Buenos Aires in 1963, where he lives and works. He won the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in 2001 and has exhibited at numerous international institutions. Notable solo exhibitions include: *Diaspora*, Galleria Continua, San Gimignano (2022); *The Submerged Cathedral*, Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne, Switzerland (2020); *Portal*, Galleria Continua Habana, Cuba (2019); *Der Zauberberg*, Quartz Studio, Turin (2018); *Perspectiva*, MALBA, Museo de Arte Latinoamericano Buenos Aires (2016), CA2M, Centro de Arte 2 de Mayo, Madrid (2017); *Lampo*, NC ARTE, Bogotá (2015); *Prestidigitador*, Contemporary Art University Museum (MUAC), Mexico (2014); *Container*, Kunstmuseum Lucerne, Switzerland (2013); *Music Stand Still*, SMAK, Ghent, Belgium (2011). In 2005, Macchi represented Argentina at the 51st Venice Biennale. His works are included in major international collections such as the Tate Modern (London), MoMA (New York), MUSAC, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo (León), CGAC, Centro Galego de Arte Contemporáneo (Santiago de Compostela), Fundación Arco (Spain), MUHKA (Antwerp), SMAK (Ghent), MAMAC Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain (Nice), and Fundación Banco de la Nación Argentina (Buenos Aires).

About the gallery:

Founded in 1990 in San Gimignano, Italy, GALLERIA CONTINUA has expanded its locations to Beijing, Les Moulins, Havana, São Paulo, Rome, Paris and Dubai.

GALLERIA CONTINUA represents a desire for continuity between times and a desire to write

a current history. Thanks to its investment in forgotten and unconventional sites, the gallery has always chosen unexpected locations, developing a strong identity and an original positioning in over thirty years of activity. The home of Galleria Continua, an ex-cinema, it has hosted many prolific exhibitions and installations over the last 34 years. It is a unique and exciting space for artists and the gallery to have to consider when planning and executing exhibitions.

GALLERIA CONTINUA / San Gimignano

Via del Castello 11, 53037 San Gimignano (SI)
+39 0577 943134 |
sangimignano@galleriacontinua.com
www.galleriacontinua.com
From Monday to Sunday: 10 AM-1 PM | 2 PM-7 PM;
Starting from 03.11, from Monday to Sunday:
10 AM-1 PM | 2 PM-6 PM

For further information about the exhibition and photographic material:
Silvia Pichini, Communications Manager
press@galleriacontinua.com
cell. +39 347 45 36 136