

# SERSE

## WATER VEILS

Modern Studio, Shanghai

18.09.2019 – 27.10.2019

Opening: September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Two years after Serse's last solo exhibition in China, Galleria Continua Beijing is pleased to present *Water veils*, hosted in Modern Studio, Shanghai.

The exhibition comprises a series of works produced over the past five years and dedicated to landscape, one of the themes of artistic research of the Italian artist. This approach to the natural space originated from the encounter with ancient Chinese painting, an ongoing study field for Serse.

Over the past twenty years, having dismissed colour, he consistently researches graphite drawing. From Serse's graphite sparks one of the most intense reinterpretations of the landscape-theme in contemporary art: seas, aquatic surfaces, plants reflections on the water, cloudy skies, high mountains, snowy forests and natural spaces lacking human figures and transformed by light and shadow.

For Serse, as a medium, graphite "allows both making the tautological gesture of drawing, and realizing a work that does not lie about its nature of pure drawing". This is why his drawings lack of thickness, a frame and, often, of a protective glass. In the artist's words: "Only the drawing is shown".

The contemporaneity in his practice stands precisely in that he rejects the specificity of the drawing, that is, the illusion of the three dimensions, and its mimetic potential. "I live the paradox: I

draw an extremely detailed landscape, spread the limits of its descriptiveness and simultaneously confirm the impossibility of its representation, its incoherent denial". In fact, Serse's landscapes do not reference the outside world. Rather, they mention the inner immensity so dear to the romantic poets. Ideally, they are landscapes of the soul, drawn with your eyes closed.

For Serse, painting is a privileged method for understanding the continuous evolution of the universe. The painter's destiny is to capture the flows of vitality running through all forms of nature. The artist has the mental instruments to perceive places that are visible, but also places that are not visible, light and shadow. The visible and the invisible, the hidden and the manifest, are elements that coexist and that are correlated, like the two sides of the same surface. Only a thin, impalpable veil separates them. To draw the water veils means to unveil the two sides of the same reality and to bring them to their mutual fulfillment.