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PASTIFICIO CERERE

Stefano Graziani: Conversazioni notturne / Late night conversations

Curated by Alessandro Dandini de Sylva

19 June – 26 July, 2013

Opening: 18 June 2013, 19.00

At the Pastificio Cerere Foundation, Rome

From June 19 until July 26, the Pastificio Cerere Foundation will host a solo exhibition by the photographer **Stefano Graziani**. Curated by **Alessandro Dandini de Sylva**, the exhibition presents a brand new project centered on the meaning of representation and on the very action of the see.

In *Conversazioni notturne / Late night conversations*, every photograph is an encounter. Unlike in the everyday observation reality, Stefano Graziani's compositions allow us to see only one subject at a time. Eliminating any spatial or temporal markers, and constituting a kind of taxonomy, his images individuate a series of elements that articulate a process of knowledge and interpretation of the world.

In this new series of photographs, as in the preceding *Under the Volcano and Other Stories*, Stefano Graziani extracts the image from its denotative context and subtracts its original use, transforming the photographic document into a powerful instrument for stimulating the imagination, and thus, for poetic regeneration. In a conversation with Rene Gabri, the artist describes his work as a looking around oneself with a different light: an "atmospheric fog" envelops his images, offering new visions and making new things visible, engendering a condition in which every time is the first time.

On the other hand, we cannot explore his images as other than mirrors, unceasingly investigating them as difference. The title of the exhibition suggests a strong link to the unconscious: a time of doubt, of wonder, of phantasms, dreams and strange occurrences. *Conversazioni notturne* uncovers a different history of photography, here understood as self-analysis, as an instrument that allows us to view ourselves. In his essay on the artist "*Culto dei morti, lo spirito dei pappagalli e l'anima*," Anselm Franke introduced the concept of "geological imagination," a delirium that awakens dreams of tribes and sinking kingdoms, through which the most extreme past and the most distant future merge back into the same thing.

This is the first in the series of exhibitions presented by **Alessandro Dandini de Sylva** in his role as the 2013 curator-in-residence at the Pastificio Cerere Foundation. The series works in line with this year's programming, which has given particular attention to the photographic medium. The *Curator in Residence* program, conceived by the Foundation's director Marcello Smarrelli, consists in inviting a curator to propose a year-long cultural itinerary, covering a diverse set of initiatives: site-specific exhibition projects, solo and collective shows, the conception and realization of critical texts and other publications, lecture cycles, etc. With this project, and the related 6ARTISTA residency program, the Pastificio Cerere Foundation aims to further reinforce its investment in the formation of the emerging protagonists of tomorrow's art scene.

Stefano Graziani (1971) is a photographer and trained architect. He lives and works in Trieste, where he teaches at the University of Trieste's Faculty of Architecture. His work has been exhibited in Italy and abroad, and is held in private and public collections. His publications include the anthology *Taxonomies* (a+m bookstore, 2006), a research project that reflects on the modalities of description and classification of certain elements of the landscape; *Under the Volcano and Other Stories* (Galleria Mazzoli, 2009); and *L'isola* (Galleria Mazzoli, 2009). In 2009 he started the project *A Mini Museum for Franco Basaglia*, which has been presented in various places and occasions, including Manifesta 7. Recently, he edited a collection of essays by Jeff Wall, titled *Gestus. Scritti sull'arte e la fotografia* (Quodlibet / Abitare, 2013). He is a founding co-editor of the magazine *San Rocco*.

Alessandro Dandini de Sylva (1981) is a photographer and curator based in Rome. His work has been exhibited both in Italy and internationally, and is currently on show at the Operativa Arte Contemporanea, within the exhibition *Il peso della mia luce*, a two-part overview of a generation of young Rome-based artists. In 2009 he was a *Talent Prize* finalist and his work was exhibited at the Museo Centrale Montemartini in Rome. Since 2011 he has been the curator of *Fotografia – Festival Internazionale di Roma*, held at MACRO, the Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome. In 2012 Marcello Smarrelli nominated him for the *Les Promesses de l'art* program, leading to a residency at the Italian Cultural Institute in Paris, where he exhibited in the context of the *Mois de la Photo*. In 2013, as a participant in the third edition of the Curator in Residence program at the Pastificio Cerere Foundation, Alessandro Dandini de Sylva will curate an exhibition cycle entirely dedicated to contemporary photography.

Exhibition Specifications

Artist: Stefano Graziani

Curated by: Alessandro Dandini de Sylva

Opening: 18 June 2013, 19.00

Exhibition duration: 19 June – 26 July 2013

Opening times: Monday to Friday, 15.00 – 19.00

Entry: Free

Location: Fondazione Pastificio Cerere, Via degli Ausoni 7, Rome

Getting there: MM Termini (line A), MM Tiburtina (line B), bus number 71

Information: Fondazione Pastificio Cerere, tel. (+39) 06 45422960, info@pastificiocerere.it, www.pastificiocerere.it

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