



FONDAZIONE  
PASTIFICIO CERERE

presents

***La Densità dello Spettro (The Density of the Spectre)***

solo exhibition

***Postcard from...Berger&Berger  
Mystères***

Curated by Marcello Smarrelli

**From 15th November to 26th January 2013. Opening Event: 15th November 2012, 7pm**

**At the Fondazione Pastificio Cerere, Rome**

On Thursday 15th November at 7pm the Fondazione Pastificio Cerere in Rome is hosting an opening of the **first solo exhibition in Italy** by the French duo, comprising a series of **original works** created especially for the occasion. The Fondazione's courtyard will also host the exhibition ***Mystères***, the poster that the artist Laurent P. Berger and the architect Cyrille Berger have devised for *Postcard from....* Both pieces, **open at free entry to the public** until 26th January 2013, are curated by Marcello Smarrelli, artistic director of the Fondazione.

Berger&Berger consider architecture, and the spaces they create in general, as devices which are open and interpretable, which, instead of having pre-set functions, have a tendency to show that there is a variety of possibilities for how they can be used. The space the artists construct becomes freer, producing different scenarios and so evading description in terms that are functional and univocal. Architecture thus conceived has a function both in the real world and on aspects of representation.

The exhibition, entitled *The Density of the Spectre*, is a reflection on the material reality of colour (pigment, printing ink, industrial varnish, and so on) as counterposed to the immaterial nature of the constitutive elements of light waves like photons. Colour is in the different works on display interpreted according to the classificatory scheme created in the 19th century by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, who developed a physiological approach to the subject that rejected pre-existing categories (created by Robert Fludd, Claude Boutet, Isaac Newton), but contrasted to what was to be developed a century later by Johannes Itten (which has determined the contemporary way of perceiving colour).

***The Density of the Spectre* includes four site-specific works of different sizes through which engage the spaces of the Fondazione.**

***The Human Eye*** analyses colour as an immaterial and transparent element which is to be passed through. The work has been created using a series of coloured filters which constitute the chromatic spectrum created by Goethe. This work is placed on the surface of the only window in the exhibition space, through which a natural light can enter. The external light together with the electric light produced by the fluorescents tubes goes through the prisma and go deep into the space creating a synthesised white.

***Walls*** is an installation placed in the centre of the hall, a white parallelepiped taking up almost all of the space, with a reduced access-way for visitors to get through.

With ***White Glazed*** the French duo work directly on the silo walls of the old Pastificio, applying a layer of white industrial varnish containing micro-granules of glass. "More than 50 years after *The Void* by Yves Klein - Berger&Berger explain - this wall painting investigates once again the notion of the *white cube*. In contrast to the original white conserved on the wall and the floor, our 'personalised' white represents a surface to reflect and diffuse the artificial light. In this way the walls function like a cinema screen retaining the light in the same direction as the source from where it is projected. The walls thus act like a cinema screen reflecting the light that is projected onto it back into the same direction that it came from.

This installation intends to put the spectators at the centre of the work, making them aware of their position as observers and also revealing the approximate quality of the artisanal application of the white painting on the walls of these modern "White Cubes", putting conventional ideas of neutral space into debate.

***Mystères***, conceived for the *Postcard from...* cycle, is a project made up of a series of **ten posters** each constituting a variation on the combination of two complementary colours from opposite ends of Goethe's

chromatic circle. These posters of unstable and indeterminate colours, widespread throughout the city, are the product of the traditional four-colour printing process CMYK (Cyan Magenta Yellow Key). *Postcard from...*, now in its second edition, is a project conceived by Marcello Smarrelli for the purpose of diffusing contemporary art in the urban context and is an invitation to Italian and international artists to design a 400x300cm poster, exhibited in the courtyard of the Fondazione Pastificio Cerere and in various advertising spots in the city of Rome which have been made available by A.P.A. Agenzia Pubblicitaria Affissioni, our project partners.

Laurent P. Berger is an artist who graduated from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris and Cyrille Berger is an architect who graduated from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris La Vilette. **Since 2006 they have worked together under the name of Berger&Berger.** From 2008 to 2009 Berger&Berger were resident at the CentQuatre in Paris. In 2009, they were invited to take part in a competition to design a temporary museum building for the Centre Pompidou (Paris) and in the research programme City Visions Europe, established by the Berlage Institute, Rotterdam. In 2010, they were chosen for the 12th Mostra Internazionale di Architettura (International Architecture Exhibition), in which they used the space in the Arsenale to present *Ca va, une salle de cinema préfabriqué*. In 2012 they are presenting *Notus Loci*, their extension project for the Centre International d'art et du Paysage de l'Île de Vassivière.

#### **Exhibition details:**

Artist: Berger&Berger

Titles of the planned exhibits: *The Density of the Spectre*, by Berger&Berger; *Postcard from... Berger&Berger Mystères*

Curated by: Marcello Smarrelli

Caption:

***The Human Eye* 2012**

Adesivi PVC stickers, light source, iron frame work- variable size

*Walls*, 2012, one-celled cement – variable size

*White glazed*, 2012, Painting, glass microspheres – variable size

***Mystère 79.24.15.00 / 04.96.79.01*, 2012**, print CMJN on paper - 4x3m

Opening event: 15th November 7pm

Exhibition period: 16th November – 26th January 2013

Where: at Fondazione Pastificio Cerere, Via degli Ausoni 7, Rome

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 3pm-7pm. Entrance: free

How to reach us: Metro from Termini (line A), Metro from Tiburtina (line B), Bus 71

#### **Information**

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#### **With the support of**



The project *Postcard from...* takes place in collaboration with

