



FONDAZIONE
PASTIFICIO CERERE

Presents

CAPOVOLGERE **(OVERTURNING)**

ABC Ceccobelli

for the 10th anniversary of the Pastificio Cerere Foundation

curated by Marcello Smarrelli

Opening: Thursday 11 June 2015 at 19.00

Public opening: 12 June - 30 July 2015

Pastificio Cerere Foundation
via degli Ausoni 7, Rome

Mabi Cultural Association
via degli Ausoni 5, Rome

free entry

press release

Rome, May 2015

The show **CAPOVOLGERE (OVERTURNING)** by **ABC Ceccobelli (Auro, Bruno and Celso Ceccobelli)** will open on **Thursday 11 June 2015 at 19.00**. Curated by **Marcello Smarrelli**, the exhibition is part of a series of events celebrating the **10th anniversary** of the **Pastificio Cerere Foundation** and the **110th anniversary of the construction** of the building that houses it. **The show will remain open to the public from 12 June to 30 July 2015.**

Ten years after its birth the Foundation pays homage to the protagonists of the cultural and creative ferment that has animated the former pasta factory since the 1970s, with a cycle of **six shows** dedicated to **Ceccobelli, Dessì, Gallo, Nunzio, Pizzi Cannella and Tirelli**. Known as the "Gruppo di San Lorenzo," these six artists were the first to recognize the potential of the disused building and to move their studios into it. Despite being in daily contact, they elaborated autonomous styles and languages, with differing outcomes. Their work continues to contribute to the contemporary art scene, demonstrating that it is possible to be rooted in a place, or indeed a single building, and at the same time belong to a vast international community of artists.

The artists were not given any precise concept to follow in ideating their shows, but were left free to conceive and present a pathway through their longstanding and articulated production. These six shows constitute just as many ideal journeys through the artists' imaginaries, sources of inspiration and symbolic universes, intertwined with tales and recollections of the years spent in the former Pastificio, in relationship with the city and with friends, with collectors and gallerists, and with all those who have played a significant role in weaving these histories.

The show's title, *CAPOVOLGERE (Overturning)*, immediately introduces us to the heart of Bruno Ceccobelli's research, which has always revolved around the discovery of new possibilities of reading reality and of subverting the common sense of language. Through his constant discipline of doing, the artist oversteps conventions and offers visions that are never entirely exhausted but rather continuously reelaborated: "It's as though all of Ceccobelli's attention were directed towards understanding art as a language of initiation or as research that turns form into a problem to be persistently reformulated" (Luigi Meneghelli, 2003).

Bruno Ceccobelli, born and raised in Todi (Perugia, Umbria), considers himself a *Homo medievalis*, in tune with the spirit of artisanal workshops and collective work, animated by a profound love of matter, a passion for technique and a faith in experimentation. For this show he has invited also his sons and long-time assistants, Auro and Celso. Hence the decision to sign the exhibition with both his and their initials: ABC Ceccobelli.

CAPOVOLGERE is spread throughout three spaces of the Pastificio Cerere: the Foundation's exhibition space, the internal courtyard and the seat of the Mabi Cultural Association.

The show opens with Bruno Ceccobelli's work *Confessionale (Confessional, 1986)*, a door lifted from one of the spaces of the former Pastificio: an homage to his old studio, which was situated precisely in the space that currently houses the Foundation. The artist has always been distinguished for his very personal way of assembling materials and found objects: transforming them, painting them, immersing them in wax, marking them with his fingerprints. This process of decontextualization aims to recuperate the hidden symbolisms and meanings of objects, with the intention of bestowing on them a new light, a relic-like aura.

Confessionale is followed by works from his more recent production (2015): *Iridi (Iris)* in the first room and *Pupille (Pupils)* at the end of the itinerary. Both are circular painting-sculptures made of bitumen, a material that, like the inside of the eye, is dark but extremely shiny, so that the light that hits it is not completely absorbed but partially reflected. The images that we see inside them are thus self-generated through a mirroring that involves both the spectator and the surrounding space.

In the internal courtyard we find *Ritratti di bandiera (Flag portraits)*, an installation made collectively by the three artists. The twenty drapes of cloth depict the patterns of international flags decorated with photographs of Auro and Celso representing Bruno Ceccobelli as performers. This work augers the creation of a world government, a single international political entity that would guarantee the peaceful cohabitation of all peoples.

The spaces of the Mabi Cultural Association contain eleven videos, all homages to renown artists, made by Auro and Celso Ceccobelli starting in 2011. These include, most notably: *Maestro K (2013)*, dedicated to Jannis Kounellis and made on the occasion of the latter's show at the VOLUME! Foundation in Rome; *Enzo Cucchi – la processione di Prisca (Enzo Cucchi – the Prisca procession, 2013)*, filmed for Bibo's Place gallery in Todi; and a previously unexhibited video realized on the occasion of the show *Alberto Burri – Davide D'Elia. Cretti, Fuochi, Muffe (Alberto Burri – Davide D'Elia. Cracks, Fires, Molds)*, likewise held at Bibo's Place gallery.

Biographies

Bruno Ceccobelli was born in 1952 in Montecastello di Vibio (Todi), and currently lives and works in Todi. He moved to Rome as an adolescent with his family, and studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, graduating with a Scenography degree supervised by Toti Scialoja. Ceccobelli's first publicly exhibited work was *Vuoto su Spazio*, made in 1972 and included the following year in *S.p.A.*, an initiative coordinated by M. Benveduti and T. Catalano. In 1973, invited by Palma Bucarelli, he participated in his first group exhibition at the Alpbach European Forum, in Austria. He held his first solo exhibition in Rome in 1977 at the Spazio Alternativo gallery, followed by two others (*Palazzo d'inverno 135 357 579* and *Gewaltverwirrungen*) at the self-managed space La Stanza; in 1978, he exhibited together with G. Dessi, G. Gallo, A. Segneri and F. Woodman at the Ugo Ferranti gallery, returning there for solo exhibitions in 1979 and 1981 and the group show *Artemisia* in 1980. In 1979 he exhibited at the Festival of Italian Culture in Belgrade and the following year participated in the Biennale de Jeunes in Paris. In 1981 he held his first exhibition at Paris's Yvon Lambert, with which he would collaborate again in 1987 and 1989. In the early 1980s he moved from his old studio in vicolo della Renella in Trastevere to the former Pastificio Cerere, an abandoned industrial complex in the San Lorenzo neighborhood, a hotbed of then-emerging artists. It was here that the critic Achille Bonito Oliva cured the show *Ateliers* in 1984, inviting the artists present to open their studios to the public. His most notable exhibitions in this period include a solo show at Salvatore Ala in New York (1983) and shows at Gian Enzo Sperone in Rome in 1984 and in New York (1985). During the same period he was also invited to the 1984 and 1986 Venice Biennale, in the sections *Aperto 84* and *Arte e alchimia*, respectively. 1988 saw the opening of the triple exhibition *Le figure, le case, i pozzi* at the Jack Shainman Gallery in New York, the Centro Cultura Ausoni in Rome and the Galleria Estrada in Madrid; as well as a show at the historic Caffè Florian in Venice. The following year he was invited to the Mayor Rowan Gallery in London and to Thomas Carstens in Barcelona. In 1993 he held a solo show at the Museum Centre Saydie Bronfman in Montreal; in 1994 he held a course at the Ecole Nationale des Beux-Artes in Dakar, Senegal; in 1996 he participated in the Rome Quadriennale and in 1999 exhibited at the Studio Guastalla Arte moderna e contemporanea in Livorno with the show *Trascorsi d'asfalto*, as well as at the Luis Borgus in Bilbao. In 2002 he celebrated twenty years of activity with a show at the B.M.B. Gallery in Amsterdam, followed by the important solo exhibition *Classico Eclettico*, at the Museo Archeologico di Villa Adriana in Tivoli, in 2003; in 2004 he made the mosaic *L'eternità è la vera medicina* in Gibellina. His

most notable recent exhibitions in the Italian capital include *Longa marcia post-temporale*, VOLUME! Foundation (2007); *Invasi*, Pastificio Cerere Foundation (2008); *Attici unici*, Attico gallery and *Natalis in Urbe*, at the Church of Santa Maria sopra Minerva (both 2009). Likewise noteworthy are the exhibitions dedicated to the experiences of the former Pastificio Cerere: *San Lorenzo* at Villa Medici in Rome (2006), curated by Graziella Lonardi Buontempo; *Officine San Lorenzo* at Mart in Rovereto (2009), curated by Daniela Lancioni; and the retrospective *San Lorenzo: Limen, la soglia dell'arte* at the Limen otto9cinque gallery, curated by Achille Bonito Oliva (2010). His numerous appearances in recent years include the solo exhibitions *Schöne Träume* at Mart in Rovereto (2011), *Eroi d'Eros* at the Orizzonti Gallery in Catania (2012), *209 – Icona from NYC* at the Nunzio Sorrenti Gallery in Novara (2013), *Port' Ostensorio* at the Susanna Orlando Gallery in Pietrasanta (2014) and the group show *Anni 70. Arte a Roma* at the Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome (2013-2014), curated by Daniela Lancioni. In 2014, the exhibition *Terra Cotta*, a retrospective of his twenty-year engagement with ceramics held at the La Rinascente exhibition space in Padua, consecrated his work with his sons and long-time collaborators Auro and Celso Ceccobelli.

Auro and Celso Ceccobelli (Rome, 1986), live and work in Todi. Since 2002 they have worked primarily with ceramic, experimenting with diverse techniques and materials. In 2004 they trained in the Raku ceramic technique with Enzo Tilia and have collaborated with Gianni Dessi, Giuseppe Gallo, Stefano Di Stasio and Nini Mulas. Starting in 2011 they have made a series of documentaries on important exponents of the contemporary art scene. Their solo exhibitions include: *Terra Cotta*, La Rinascente exhibition space, Padua (2014); *La Moglie di Man Ray era una S...anta*, Per mari e Monti Gallery, Civita Nova Marche (2014); *EcoFormeSolari*, Studio d'Arte Fedele Gallery, Monopoli (BA) 2010. Among their group shows: *Baculus – Bastoni/Scettri*, Museo Archeologico Nazionale e Teatro Romano, Spoleto (PG) 2014; *Arte a palazzo*, Raku Ceramics Exhibition, Museo Oraziano, Licenza (RM) 2012. From 2009 to 2013 they curated the "Degustarte" event, which took place at the Roccafiore cellar in Todi (PG) for "Cantine Aperte" in late May. Since 2014 they have curated the event "Scrigni d'Autore," likewise at the Roccaforte cellar in Todi (PG).

PROGRAM

- **Nunzio**: October - November 2015
- **Marco Tirelli**: December 2015 - January 2016
- **Pizzi Cannella**: February - March 2016

OPENING TIMES

Pastificio Cerere Foundation: Monday – Friday 15.00-19.00

Mabi Cultural Association: Monday – Friday 17.00-19.00

FREE ENTRY

CONTACTS

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