



FONDAZIONE
PASTIFICIO CERERE

Namsal Siedlecki

ARTIST TALK

Friday February 28th 2020, h 6 pm

Kronika, Centre for Contemporary Art

Bytom, Poland

Introduce: Agata Cukierska, Programme Director of CCA Kronika

PRESS NOTE

Friday February 28th at **Kronika, Centre for Contemporary Art** of Bytom in Poland, the artist **Namsal Siedlecki** will hold an **artist talk** to present *Mvaḥ Chā*, his last production of sculptures realized within the *Crisalidi* project. **Agata Cukierska**, Programme Director of CCA Kronika, will introduce the talk.

Crisalidi is a project promoted by **Fondazione Pastificio Cerere** in Rome and curated by **Marcello Smarrelli**, supported by the Italian Council (6th Edition, 2019) program to promote contemporary art in the world by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism. **Centro per l'arte contemporanea Luigi Pecci di Prato** will be the final recipient of the resulting artworks.

The project was born from a focused reflection by Siedlecki on sculpture and how it has developed in various eras and cultures, also through its technical aspects which very often have a decisive impact on the form of the works. The process began with a **period of residence in Kathmandu**, where the artist has been able to test and elaborate the Nepalese technique of lost wax casting.

Namsal Siedlecki, in collaboration with the local artisans and foundries, has created **a series of bronze sculptures** that come to life from the moulds used for the fusion of the votive statues linked to Nepalese religious cults. The sculptures, almost unfinished with a strong and primitive expressiveness, appear as undefined magmatic masses free from proportional canons, from precise anatomical references, which however keep a faint relation with Buddhist and Hindu religious iconography, and at the same time remind us of the archaic aesthetic of early Twentieth century sculpture.

The talk follows the *Mvaḥ Chā* exhibition held at the Patan Museum (Kathmandu, Nepal) in January 2020, promoted by Fondazione Pastificio Cerere in collaboration with the Siddhartha Arts Foundation.

Other appointments:

- Italian Cultural Institute in London, UK, Wednesday February 26th 2020, h 6.30 pm;

- In Extenso, Clermont-Ferrand (France), April 2020.

A series of lectures by the artist have also been planned that will take place in the Academies of fine arts of Rome, Florence, Carrara, as well as an open citizenship meeting in collaboration with CAP – Centre of Plastic Arts of Carrara.

A workshop will also be held with the students of the Liceo Artistico Caravaggio in Rome for the project “Collezione di Classe” in February 2020.

In June 2020 the sculptures, further elaborated, will be exhibited at **Fondazione Pastificio Cerere** and on that occasion there will be a presentation of a book about the project, edited by Nero.

Biography of Namsal Siedlecki

Namsal Siedlecki was born in Greenfield (USA) in 1986. He lives and works in Seggiano (GR). In 2015 he won the fourth edition of the Moroso Prize and the Cy Twombly Italian Affiliated Fellow in Visual Arts by the American Academy in Rome; in 2019 he won the Club Gamec Prize as well as the Cairo Prize. In the last few years his art was exhibited in several national and international institutions including: In Extenso, Clermont-Ferrand; MAXXI in Rome; Villa Medici, Rome; Luigi Pecco Contemporary Art Centre, Prato; Galeria Boavista, Lisboa; Villa Romana, Florence; Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation, Turin; 6 Moscow International Biennale for Young Art, Moscow; Chertludde, Berlin; Magazzino, Rome; American Academy in Rome; Museo Apparente, Naples; Fondazione Pastificio Cerere, Rome; Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation, Venezia; Antinori Art Project, Bargino; Galeria Madragoa, Lisboa; Frankfurt am Main, Berlin; Cripta747, Turin. From 2008 to 2013 he has managed the Independent GUM studio space, first in Carrara, then in Turin. www.namsalsiedlecki.com

Rome, February 2020

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