

BLEND

ANGELO ACCARDI | CONSTANTINE

Opening event: July 14th, 2016 – 7:30 p.m.

SimonBart Gallery of Porto Cervo inaugurates the 2016 events season with the exhibition *Blend – Accardi | Constantine*, dedicated to the last Angelo Accardi's artworks and to the official launch of Constantine's photographs.

Blend is the name of the last Accardi's art series. After the international success of his *Misplaced*, the artist has perfected his artistic research with *Sediments*, in which he has "sedimented" the key points of his artistic language until their final, enigmatic mix in *Blend*. The result is a full maturity, which allows Accardi to inspect with absolute self-confidence unexplored areas and to travel through again paths of his artistic youth. This happens both in terms of artistic language and technique, meanly in his sculptures, both in terms of themes and subjects of representation, with recurring cinematographic mentions or the marked use of human figure in his last artworks.

The exhibition project, created and curated by Simon Bart, owner of the gallery, is indeed based on the harmony resulting from the blend, as artistic mix between Accardi and Constantine, new photographic proposal of SimonBart Gallery, which will be presented in the exclusive Rolls-Royce Summer Studio.

Accardi's canvases are constantly oriented to the mix/contrast between reality and imagination, appearance and significance; they wink at photography, with her evocative power of destabilize reality, exactly like happens in Constantine's enigmatic photographs. Both artists share ambiguity, sense of mistery and abundance of symbols, authentic keys to interpret reality.

Four unpublished Constantine's works will be presented and mentioned in four Accardi's canvases, especially created and arranged in an incessant game of recalls between paintings and photographs. Spectators will be involved to resolve a *rebus*, getting the solution to read reality.

The concept of Blend embraces the event in a double location, two spaces which are geographically and also ideally close at the same time: SimonBart gallery and Rolls-Royce Studio, both exposed on the splendid Porto Vecchio (old port) of Porto Cervo.

The gallery will present the last artworks of Accardi's *Bend* series (but works from *Sediments* and *Misplaced*, too); on invitation, it will be possible to access to the Rolls-Royce venue, to enjoy the "blend" between canvases and photographs.

Angelo Accardi

Angelo Accardi was born in Sapri (Salerno), in 1964.

The artistic debut is strongly characterized by the Italian “figura” and by the symbolic and pictorial dimension. A short interval at the Art Academy of Naples marks the beginning of an identity crisis that will go on for a few years, and in this period his work evolves toward the abstract. In the beginning of the Nineties, Accardi sets up his personal studio at Sapri and embarks on his pursuit of depicting figures against a social background; in the same period he exhibits in prestigious galleries in Italy and abroad (Rossetti and Pini in Rome, Manzoni Arte Studio in Milan, Klaus Lea in Munich).

The series of works called *Human Collection* depicting on attenuated atmosphere suggesting the softness of cotton wool, where the figures are masterfully veiled as if by a sheath of moistness, marks a fundamental passage in his artistic development.

The works of this series were initially exhibited in Vancouver. This exhibition then led to a five year collaboration with the Korean gallerist, Robert Kwon.

In 2001 he launched his association with two prestigious galleries: Spazio Arte at Rovereto and Battaglia of Milan, followed by personal and collective group exhibitions, such as *Speed Generation* and *Vicious*, which will give Accardi access to more appealing, stimulating artistic environments.

Through the collaboration with the florentine gallerist Giovannini, fifteen of his works have been exhibited in Florence, Innsbruck, Barcellona, and Budapest, during the traveling exhibition *Enjoy the Silence*.

With the new avant-garde group *Tantarte* he participates at the *Galleria Italia* in Shanghai, in 2006. Then he started, above all with the *Misplaced*, an uninterrupted series of art exhibitions in Italy and abroad. In the last 5 years he exhibits in permanence at SimonBart Gallery of Porto Cervo and regularly in London, Miami, Geneva.

Constantine - Cardinal/theological virtues

The fusion between classicism and experimentation is an emblematic element of Constantine's photographs. The four exposed artworks propose a consideration about a topical point of artistic research of every time, that is the representation of cardinal/theological virtues. Constantine recalls classical models and examples, above all the Cardinal Virtues painted by Perugino in the XVI century for the Sala delle Udienze of Cambio Collegio in Perugia, and interprets them through an original and personal artistic language.

The expressive potential of photography, one of the most contemporary media, conveys a typical classical, "eternal" theme: this match/battle generates a smart game of recalls between sacral and profane, modern and contemporary, classical and experimental, that is part of a strongly innovative language.

The woman figure is crucial in Constantine's works. The woman body appears quite "naked", without the traditional items of the cardinal/theological virtues' representation: Justice, Faith, Strength, Hope are shot as women, with a physical dimension that triumphs on the symbolism of the theme.

A woman that, with her body, prevails upon every attribute of virtues; a woman that is strictly contemporary, just because shot, but also a classical woman, hieratic, that is a symbolical representation of eternal themes of the laical and catholic artistic history.

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It is possible to visit the exhibition every day, from July 14th to August 4th,
Opening hours: 10:00/13:00 – 17:00/00:00

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