

On Wednesday, July 5, 2017, from 6p.m. to 9p.m. the galleria Davide Gallo, via Farini 6 – 2nd yard Milano, is pleased to present the "The China Town Biennial".

With this project the gallery wants to dialogue with the district of Paolo Sarpi - China Town, and with the flavour of a summer art festival, telling stories of artists residing in the area, who live the daily relationship with the district which is the most multi-ethnic end cosmopolitan of the Lombard metropolis.

The invited artists are: Alessandra Mazzucchelli, Camilla Santi, Casagrande&Recalcati, Coquelicot Mafille, Ferdinando Scianna, Helga Franza, Li Pin, Loredana Di Lillo, **Marc Kalinka, Michele Foti e Li Yang, Nathalie Du Pasquier, Paola Brusatti, Premiata Ditta, Steve Piccolo, Ugo la Pietra, Vedovamazzei.**

From this survey in the China Town's artistic and social tissue, the emerging figure is that the artists, mostly Italians (!), live the relationship with the neighbourhood in a profound, totalizing way: the neighbourhood is not only a theatre of their fortunes, but also the inspiration, as in the case of **Anna and Vincenzo of Premiata Ditta**, whose work is a unique notebook of scents, collected by walking in Paolo Sarpi street and especially in those places where they were seized with particular intuition on their research in art. Also **Camilla Santi's** work, is a notebook containing events consumed in the neighbourhood; in this case, the artist collected sales receipts of Chinatown restaurants so that the work becomes a vehicle of memory and experience.

Daily life is also narrated by the music of Chinatown, beautifully interpreted by the lute of **Li Pin**, which with its melody cheers the evening strolls of the local residents of the neighbourhood. From life to the idea of death, as **Paola Brusati** alludes to in her work, a theory of cards traditionally used by some Chinese ethnicities, such as homage to the deceased, on which the artist intervenes with a slight burn, that lets us glimpse the underlying surface as to signify that from a death there may be a possible rebirth. Also **Casagrande & Recalcati** work is about renaissance, a triumph of flowers and sensuality, the metaphor of spring of the entire Chinese society that is among the most prosperous and wealthy on the planet.

But glory can bring vanity and the need for new glory. The result is an acceleration of the growth rates of society, which, as **Ugo la Pietra** denounces, can result in the abolition of life patterns. Yet, behind the commercialization there may also be poetry, as **Ferdinando Scianna** seize it, as a watchful observer immortalizes the surreal dialogue between a family of mannequins and a metropolitan graffiti. **Coquelicot Mafille** in his work portrays two young Chinese who instead of reading Mao Tse-tung's red book prefer "Deep Ecology" by Arne Naess, an ecological monition but also the exaltation of a new conscience of new generations born and raised beyond the borders of China. The idea of the border, its expansion, the progressive conquest by China of new commercial spaces and beyond, is denounced by **Loredana Di Lillo** in her borderless world map, a metaphor for the disappearance of nations and their cultural identities.

Di Lillo's work introduces the complex problem of community cohabitation, and on this point **Helga Franza** intervenes to analyse the issue of communication, both ideological and cultural, through the press service.

What endangers multi-ethnic societies is the homologation of the individual and its annihilation in an

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anonymous mass and its devoid of personality according to **Marc Kalinka** reflection, which in his work confuses many faces into a single collage. Ancient and new, tradition and pop culture blend in contemporary Chinese society as in **Steve Piccolo's** work, which compares contemporary Chinese pop sound with an image that refers to the ancient zodiac tradition. **Michele Foti** and **Li Yang** work on the same theme, the contrast between ancient and modern.

Their videos projected on canvas tend to scare off the dialectical contrast between the static image of the picture and the moving image of the video. The result is a sophisticated contemporary poem. Poetry is the fulcrum of the work of **Alessandra Mazzucchelli** who finds in the subject of the trophy, contemporary grail, a narrative element that portrays a symbol of ancestral femininity and acceptance. The works of **Nathalie Du Pasquier** and **Vedovamazzei** deal with the issue of the relationship between artist and community, in the sense of a relationship between individual and society, and the inner visions that the artist has in relation with world around him: n ironic self-portrait of Stella Scala, of the couple Vedovamazzei, in which the artist is represented in "Chinese" version, a small painting with geometric structures for Du Pasquier.

“The China Town Biennial” will be open until Saturday, July 8, at the following times: 10a.m.-1p.m., 2p.m.-7p.m.

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