

YAN XING

Treatise on Ancient Design

Opening: Wednesday 26 September 2018

Until 9 November, 2018

Magazzino is pleased to present *Treatise on Ancient Design*, by **Yan Xing**. This is the Chinese artist's first solo exhibition in Italy. It will be on view from September 26th through November 9th, 2018.

Yan Xing is known for his multi-component, interdisciplinary projects that combine diverse media such as performance, video, photography, installation and painting. He has built a complex, compelling body of work that reflects critically on how history is manufactured today. Through the intensive investigation of literature, history, and art theory, he has worked out an artistic narrative governed by its own logic. His works circulate around large themes such as negativity, resistance, and order, exploring their complex interrelations.

In his exhibition at Magazzino, Yan Xing focuses on the value of ancient aesthetics and its permeation into modernity. Starting out with an investigation into the history of modern classical architecture in Europe, he traces how this architecture has transformed the consciousness on the graphic designing process in Northern Africa, especially in Lybia and Tunisia. Referencing the clear neo-classical connotations in the visual language of totalitarian regimes, the artist will embrace the space of the gallery with an environmental installation that includes sculpture and a series of works on paper reflecting the ambiguous nature of his subject. Through this installation, Yan Xing aims to show how a certain aesthetic is bound to dominate the space, both through the architectural layout and by its choice of elements that will generate tension with the viewer and his/her perception of space. The work reflects the dark and obscure signs of domination and control implied by the use of a design scheme.

A comprehensive text by Cecilia Canziani (art critic and curator based in Rome) will accompany the exhibition.

Yan Xing (Chongqing, 1986) lives and works in Los Angeles. He graduated from the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute in 2009. His work has been shown around the world, e.g. at the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam; Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing; Chinese Arts Centre, Manchester; Contemporary Arts Museum Houston; and Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing. His works are in the Rubell Family Collection, Miami; M+ Museum for Visual Culture, Hong Kong; and Kadist Art Foundation, Paris/San Francisco, and others. In 2012 Yan Xing won the Chinese Contemporary Art Award for Best Young Artist; that year, he also received a nomination for the Future Generation Art Prize from the Pinchuk Art Centre. In June 2017, Kunsthalle Basel hosted *Dangerous Afternoon*, his first major solo exhibition in Europe.