

MAGAZZINO

ALESSANDRO PIANGIAMORE

Witness of Ordinary Facts
June 8 – September 25, 2011

Witness of Ordinary Facts

I have decided to write in the first person, without delegating to another voice. I do not intend to justify any of the work, for the simple reason that any explanation might limit the potential of the work. It is always difficult to talk about the work, I think probably because it is made up of images, which, by their very nature, are difficult to describe.

Everything comes from the world, but not as an external process. They are instead like “intimations” that can only be mentioned; to investigate more deeply would be both too difficult, and useless. Still, an explanation is necessary concerning the performance in connection with a work on display that involves the presence, among the performers, of those close to me, always present during my work. These are my giants. I have asked them to make a useless effort, inconclusive and certainly fallible: to lift, or elevate, a sort of “pavement”, made in concrete and containing an empty shell, full of water, attempting not to let a single drop fall off.

I perceive this action to be a sacrifice. A sacrifice is, in the etymological sense of the word, the production of sacred things; at the same time, according to Georges Bataille, it is a sort of violent consuming, dispersive. I believe that my thought situates itself between these two definitions.

In my work I am constantly searching for new archetypes, which is, in itself, a contradiction in terms. The archetype, by definition, is something already existing in the collective consciousness and beyond the direct knowledge that one has of a specific thing. An archetype, finally, cannot be invented; at the most it can be discovered.

I have never tried to invent anything, if not that which already exists: a phrase of Walter Benjamin occurs to me, “Everything made by man can always be *remade* by man.” Something begins to exist in the moment it is conceived, beyond its materiality and its motivation. To quote Benjamin once more, “Artistic production begins with figurations that are in service of worship. Out of these figurations, one can allow that the fact that they exist is more important than the fact that they are seen.”

I have always been attracted by limits, beyond which there is only uncertainty. The images I choose contain this principle. Each of the images in this show come from my archive: some are made, and some are found. All of them are characterized by containing indefinite actions that cannot be located in a specific temporal sphere.

I decided to reproduce them in etchings, as this has been the first mean used for mass image ad text reproduction; through this translation into an obsolete technique, I would highlight their condition of being atemporal.

Alessandro Piangiamore

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June 9 – September 25, 2011

Magazzino

Via dei prefetti 17 – 00186 Rome

Opening hours: Tuesday– Friday 11 am – 3 pm / 4 – 8 pm Saturday 11 am -1 pm / 4 – 8 pm

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MAGAZZINO

Room I

Se la terra è pesante
2011
pvc print. brass
cm 340x800

Room II

An empty shell dripping on a concrete floor
2011
cement, shell, iron
cm 120x200

Untitled
2011
etching and watercolour on paper
ed. 2 + 1 a.p.
cm 32x43

Untitled
2011
etching and watercolour on paper
ed. 2 + 1 a.p.
cm 32x43

Untitled
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etching and watercolour on paper
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etching and watercolour on paper
ed. 2 + 1 a.p.
cm 32x43

Untitled
2011
etching and watercolour on paper
ed. 2 + 1 a.p.
cm 32x43

Untitled
2011
etching and watercolour on paper
ed. 2 + 1 a.p.
cm 32x43

Room III

Due solo due
2011
c-print on satin paper
7 elements, each cm 27x27
ed. 1 + 1 a.p.

Untitled
2011
barnacle, brass, cm 15x26
pedestal cm 23x33x90

Breve storia di cadute (a brief history of falling)
2011
mixed media
4 elements, each cm 32x32

Office

Se la terra è pesante
2011
vintage poster (photo by Attilio Boccazzi
Varotto) cut-off, brass
cm 127x160

Weissmies4027m (Se la terra è pesante)
2011
cut inkprint, brass
cm 45x45

Legroupfermede (se la terra è pesante)
2010
Vintage postcard, drawing pin
cm 32x32

Forestedifonti (se la terra è pesante)
2010
Vintage postcard, drawing pin
cm 32x32

Lesagedumali (se la terra è pesante)
2010
Vintage postcard, drawing pin
cm 32x32