

Francesca Leone

La Piazza

Opening: May 29, 2024 | 6pm – 9pm
Until July 27, 2024

Magazzino is pleased to announce the opening of *La Piazza* (The Square), second solo exhibition by Francesca Leone in the gallery after *Si può illuminare un cielo melmoso e nero?* (*Can one illuminate a dark and mirky sky?*) in 2020.

The show will open Wednesday May 29 and will be on view until July 27, 2024.

The title refers to a central place for towns' and cities urbanistic. From the times of the Greek *agorà*, social and political life of communities revolve around squares. A place created by men for men, whose centripetal force reflects itself in the furnishings that often decorate them. Equestrian monuments, fountains and obelisks that celebrate deeds and undertakings of a humanity that has guaranteed itself wellbeing and freedom through control and oppression.

In this exhibition Francesca Leone offers a reinterpretation of an archetypical place, with a project conceived for the gallery spaces, in which emerges a reflection about man and its conflictual relationship with nature.

A circular location hosts a structure with an ambivalent soul between an obelisk and a massive vegetal element, which seems to expand and take control of its surroundings. The chosen materials contribute to feed the misunderstanding: often used in Leone's work, recycled materials create an oxymoronic relation with the strange vegetal universe that they represent; an universe in which new flowers can blossom from scrap, rusty tubes and taps. A landscape made of steel and dark shades in which Nature tries to get its centrality back.

Francesca Leone was born in Rome in 1964, where she lives and works. In her recent work, pictorial practice expands itself in an universe of constant tension between opposites: her works live in the oscillation between an inherited condition (the usage of recycled materials) and a rewriting, pictorial but also plastic, which tends to overturn its most evident connotations. Francesca Leone has exhibited, among others, at Capitol Museums (2007), in the Lodge of Saint Bethelmy in Palermo (2008), Palazzo Venezia, Rome (2008), and Castel dell'Ovo, Naples (2009), at the Moscow Museum of Moderna and Contemporary Art (2009), at the Bihar Museum, Patna (India) in occasion of G20 (2023). Moreover she had solo exhibitions at the MAC in Santiago de Chile, at the MACBA of Buenos Aires, at Saint Petersburg Museum of Accademy of Fine Arts, at the PAN – Palace of the Arts of Naples (2014), Triennale di Milano (2015), Gallerie d'Italia in Milan (2021), Salone Verde a collateral event of the 59th Venice Biennale (2022).