

Renata Fabbri

Gaia De Megni

Odeon

Sotto Project Room

12 December 2023 – 14 January 2024

Opening: Tuesday 12 December 2023, h. 6.30 – 9pm

The performance *Il mito dell'Eroe* will take place from 6.30pm

Press Release

Renata Fabbri is pleased to announce *Odeon*, the first solo show at the gallery by Gaia De Megni (Santa Margherita Ligure, 1993), as part of the Sotto project room programme. The exhibition project gathers a selection of sculptural and photographic works in dialogue with the performance *Il mito dell'Eroe* (2021), presented exclusively on the evening of the exhibition's opening.

Ranging between diverse media, including sculpture, installation, video and performance, Gaia De Megni's work analyses the potential of the image through the crumbling of Western imagery and its representations. What catches the artist's attention is the moving image in particular, from which De Megni identifies both individual and collective matrixes. Drawing on the cinematographic language, both historical and contemporary, as well as from digital media, her work questions the balance between *absence* and *presence*, *monument* and *movement*, *representation* and *reality*, through processes of deconstruction and reformulation of visual and verbal codes.

A recurring element in her production is the investigation of the military context and its rituals, from which De Megni appropriates symbols and aesthetic paradigms, such as arms, badges and uniforms, or even specific gestures or postures, re-elaborating the latter in the form of sculpture and performance. In this way, roles and actions bound to an idea of offence and defence are decontextualized in the artist's works and voided of any symbology of belonging or spectacular intent. What remains are repeated gestures, slow and extended gaits, dysfunctional devices and stage costumes: the result of a procedure of abstraction and fragmentation of the original content, given to formulating new interpretations and relations of meaning.

Through the re-elaboration of typical elements of military performance, cinema and theatre architecture, the exhibition conceived for the Renata Fabbri gallery questions the hero archetype *by operating on history and its representations to deconstruct the rhetoric of the hero figure in favour of a*

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Tuesday – Saturday
3.30pm – 7.30pm
Monday by appointment

subjectivity with no provenance, race or gender (Marco Scotini).

The performance *Il mito dell'Eroe* (2021) – which evokes the typical on-site march by an actor dressed in military clothing – represents the prelude to a series of works that, in-between fiction and reality, question univocal and dominant narratives rooted in media culture. Referencing the architectural structure of the Greek 'odeon' and its multiple uses throughout history – both a theatre and a parade ground – De Megni reflects on the theatricalisation of violence as a metaphor for the contemporary world.

Biography

Gaia de Megni (Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy, 1993) lives and works between Rome and Milan. She studied Visual Arts and Curatorial Studies at NABA in Milan, furthering her studies with the MAP_PA Master in Performing Arts organised by Palaexpo and the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome. Her recent projects include *AFELIO* (performance, 2023), *Il mito dell'Eroe* (video and performance, 2021), *Il mito dell'Androgino* (sculptures, 2020), *Dedalo* (sculptures, 2020), *Il peso del Tuono* (performance, 2021), *Amore Giovane* (photography, 2020). She has taken part in solo and collective exhibitions including: *Woodland*, Teatro dei ragazzi (Turin, 2023); *Ekrani i Artit* (Shkodër, Albania, 2022); a collective exhibition at Castello delle Mura in Rome on the occasion of Talent Prize INSIDEART (Rome, 2021); *Ludoteca*, Giorgio Galotti (Milan, 2021); *Hypermaremma* (Maremma Toscana, 2021); *Blackout*, edited by Ana Dević, Pierre Bal-Blanc, Marco Scotini, Carol Yinghua Lu and Liu Ding and published in *Artribune* magazine (2021); *Studio Visit – 30 artists for 30 days* edited by Adrian Paci and published by Fondazione Pini and Boîte Editions (2021); *Maker Faire* edited by *ArToday* (Rome, 2020); *Esterno Notte* curated by Giorgio Galotti for CAMERA – Italian Centre for Photography (Turin, 2020); *The Wild State*, Ars Electronica Festival (Linz 2020); San Carlo, San Carlo al Lazzaretto (Milan, 2019); *PROPAGANDA* curated by Marcello Maloberti, Museo del Novecento (Milan, 2019). She has won the Monza Biennale dei giovani art prize (2017), the Arte Accademia del DUCATO prize (2019), the Lydia prize (2019) and the Pini Art Prize at Fondazione Pini (2023), and she was selected from among the nine finalists of the Talent Prize 2021.

Press Office

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