 


#  CAMeC

# Centro Arte Moderna e Contemporanea

Piazza Cesare Battisti, 1 – La Spezia

**Omar Galliani**

**… a Oriente/...in the East**

*curated by Marzia Ratti*

**27 June – 15 November 2015**

**extended to 10 January 2016**

*press release, 11.11.15*

**Attended by a vast public**, the large exhibition by Omar Galliani, curated by Marzia Ratti and hosted at CAMeC, La Spezia, has been **extended to** **10 January 2016.**

Its success continues with an **important addition: the exhibition display is enriched by the installation** “Aquatica. La memoria dell’acqua/Aquatica. The memory of water”,made *site specific* for the Conca dell’Incoronata in Milan, the open part of Naviglio water canal endowed with the sluice gates designed by Leonardo.

The **large polyptych**, displayed on the occasion of the recently ended Milanese exhibition, is now located in the beautiful rooms at CAMeC and - after its external exposure - appears **extremely transformed** thanks to the **interaction with the elements and weathering**.

The constant contact with the rain, sun, salt and other natural elements - sand, leaves, lizards passing by and insects - has remodeled the aspect of the work; its partial dissolution and new life cycle express the thought of the artist who believes that **memory leaches and transforms**.

The installation is made up of four poplar boards: two boards (painted by brushing a mixture of Himalayan salt grains and egg white) make out the face of a woman with a hairstyle that reminds the viewer of Leonardo's female models, like the painting of Leda; the other two boards (painted in solid colour) represent the earth and sky. Compared to the initial work at CAMeC it is possible to take a look at the new hues of blue and red that came out from the wooden boards, the recent shades in the cropped hair of Leda, the dissolution of the blue where the sky is now lighter and more realistic.

In addition to the new installation, the exhibition presents a deep overview of the work of Omar Galliani - who considers **drawing** **a preferential way of analysis** and the fundamental element of his artistic research - through a group of **about** **thirty works on paper, on board and a terracotta sculpture** placed at the entrance of CAMeC named “Lontani da Xian/Far away from Xian”: a large horse - a copy of the statue of a steed from the priceless terracotta army from Xian - to which the artist adds the drawing of the body of a woman laying down, bringing in new meanings and symbols related to the journey and the link between East and West.

As the curator Marzia Ratti states, the exhibition “is focused on **works derived from** **the fascinations he felt during his many journeys to China and the East**, where the artist made himself known and appreciated by exporting his artistic language that, within the most sharp contemporaneity, also carries the heritage of the Italian classical tradition which is filtered and interpreted through a sublime individual elaboration. […] The travels of Galliani to the East have brought close **encounters** **with the images, stories and characters of thousand years-long tradition**, unparalleled and that in this globalised world is creating conceptual and linguistic misunderstandings going both ways. These features consistently emerge in the artworks presented at CAMeC, condensed in visual illusions that take us back first to the legendary story of young princess Liu Ji, and then to the poetic memory of dynastic inks and handwritings, and also to the theme of sign seen from its perceptive and semantic fluidity”.

Galliani himself says “drawing is always travelling with me and in many airports of the East and West, on several notebooks, I traced lines, used up pencils, turned charcoals or sanguine into dust”. In the text of the catalogue Danilo Eccher highlights that “Omar Galliani's drawing is also the constant switch between the light poetry of concept and the reality of a powerful and unwieldy Nature”.

Themes very dear to the artist, such as water, the double, the Siamese and reflecting images, are in the **video** “Omar Galliani. Fluire/Omar Galliani. To Flow” - music by Erich Galliani, directed by Massimiliano Galliani – that the visitor can watch at the entrance of CAMeC.

Within the event, on 27 and 28 November, CAMeC hosts a **workshop** for students by Omar Galliani.

The exhibition is accompanied by a **catalogue**, published by Silvana Editoriale, with texts by Danilo Eccher, Marzia Ratti, Omar Galliani; graphic design by Massimiliano Galliani.

**INFO and CONTACTS**

**Title: *Omar Galliani …a Oriente/Omar Galliani ...in the East***

***Un progetto di CAMeC contemporary/A project by CAMeC contemporary***

**Dates:** 27 June – 15 November 2015 **extended to 10 January 2016**

**Curated by: Marzia Ratti**

**Scientifical and Organizing Committee: Omar Galliani, Eleonora Acerbi, Danilo Eccher, Nadia Stefanel**

**Opening hours**: Tuesday to Sunday 11am – 6pm; Closed Monday

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