

GALLERIA POGGIALI E FORCONI

PIETRASANTA

Manfredi Beninati

Sunday 16, july 1975 / 2010 / 2016/

Vernissage Saturday 25 June 2016 7 p.m. – 12 midnight

Manfredi Beninati (Palermo, 1970), has conceived a unique new project specifically for the Pietrasanta premises of the Galleria Poggiali which pivots on a combination of drawing, painting and sculpture. It consists of a large painted wooden panel and 4 sculptures in bronze. This is the first event in the *Pietrasanta unique* series which will take place at regular intervals, involving an alternation of individual artists each presenting a single work specifically conceived for the Via Garibaldi premises.

Manfredi Beninati, a sophisticated observer of contemporary culture, to which he has a bulimic attitude, and of the world of cinema where he began his career, draws upon a poetic baggage that is accentuated and explored through the commitment of the Fondazione Flavio Beninati, of which he is the driving force and the director.

Known for his installations combined with the practice of painting, we should mention Manfredi Beninati's participation on two occasions at the Venice Biennale (2005 and 2009), and at those of Liverpool and Athens, the shows at the Royal Academy of London and at the Hammer Museum of Los Angeles, and his recent participation at the shows *Contemporary Curated*, at Sotheby's in London and *24 ore nell'arte contemporanea* at the MACRO in Rome.

The narrativisation of memory that his paintings refer to is, in fact, not enacted exclusively in the traditional forms of literary or media fiction. The hypertrophic account of contemporary memory is now increasingly achieved through the ritualisation of places (often through the media). According to Jan Assmann, one of the most important theorists of the social significance of memory, the geographical evocation of an event in a place gives rise to nuclei of crystallisation of space and time around which memory coagulates.

This is the context of research within which the sculptures created for Pietrasanta, a specific place, need to be positioned. These are figures intimately known to Beninati, half busts that dialogue uninterruptedly with *Sunday 16, july, 1975*, a work executed in 2010 and now updated to activate the mnemonic metamorphosis.

In terms of contents, his works reveal a marked interest in architecture which – especially at the Venice Biennial of 2005 and that of Liverpool – found its greatest expression in installations of an environmental character, like his recent show at the MACRO in Rome where once again he reproduced an accessible installation.

Galleria Poggiali / Pietrasanta

Via Garibaldi, 8

Manfredi Beninati, up to 15 July 2016

Tuesday – Sunday 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. / 6 p.m. – 12 midnight

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