

press release



Paolo Vivian with a solo exhibition in the capital of Bulgaria

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**MARE NOSTRUM
PAOLO VIVIAN**

personal exhibition
site specific by
multimedia installations,
ambient sounds and photography

curated by Dora Bulart (Italy)

15 February – 15 March 2024

Inauguration
Thursday, February 15, 2024
from 5.00pm to 9.00pm

presentation:
Dr. Ivaylo Hristov, curator
the critical text Dora Bulart

HOSTGALLERY
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On Thursday, February 15th from 5.00pm to 9.00pm in SOFIA, the capital of Bulgaria, the personal exhibition of the Trentino artist PAOLO VIVIAN, entitled "MARE NOSTRUM", will be inaugurated at the prestigious HOSTGALLERY. Known for his research in the field of collective memory, identity and their impact on social behavior, this time the artist focuses his interest on the theme of migration and

humanitarian socio-cultural problems. "Mare Nostrum" by Vivian, proposes an elegiac symbolic work, dedicated to hope, investigating the concept of the border, through video, sound and photography. Until March 15th in the spaces of the HOST GALLERY in Sofia, a multimedia installation of two large-scale video projections, ambient sounds and a large photographic installation surrounding it will be on display. Through these three components of the holistic exhibition, Vivian invites the public from the entrance to the gallery "dressed" in blue, to immerse themselves in a hypnotic and mysterious world in search of the secrets of existence and hope. During the show it will be organized the giuded visits and an artist talk. Mare Nostrum by Paolo Vivian at HOSTGALLERY is curated by Dora Bulart and it runs until 15 march 2024.



artist's words

"Mare Nostrum" is a video with a metaphorical impression. My work was inspired by issues related to migration and refugees, it focused on the theme of both internal and external borders. It is a sensation expressed through a few continuously moving images as a metaphor of geographical borders, religious divisions, cultural diversities, internal borderlines, and the most extreme border for many people on the run, death. The other aspect of the work is linked to the internal journey in search of hope, where sometimes we are the refugees, fleeing from ourselves, outlining our borders. The sea is a symbol of hope, passion and transformation." Paolo Vivian

words of the curator

Vivian's project "Mare Nostrum" is very engaging, in fact, it is like a silent conversation of future memories and the boundaries within us. The artist used an everyday object and created an unreal world of hypnotic beauty and spiritual metamorphoses. With abstract images, with the transmutations of shots and shapes, with overflow of colors - those of the spirit and those of passion, Vivian draws a thin border line between life and death, between dream and myth, between Earth and Sky. The video emerging from space, the

meditative ambient sounds, the memory cubes in the photographic installation, all of them, are the artist's tools to provoke his audience in the search for the secrets of the essence of the internal cosmos and awakening. It is a work with an elegiac character, where if you are attentive you could discover the outline of hope. The hope of a more beautiful, more loving world."

Dora Bulart, art critic and curator of the exhibition



gallery director's words

"Inspired by the attention on the major theme of our times, that of migrants and their tragic lives, we have decided to open the 2024 season of the HOST GALLERY with a provocative exhibition by the well-known Italian artist Paolo Vivian. His project is site specific and, in fact, he transformed the gallery space into a sea, creating a poetic and hypnotic reality, where the color blue dominates. The exhibition generates strong emotions and I believe the public will be very enthusiastic. Furthermore, Vivian is already well known in Bulgaria, through his historic collaboration with the Bulart gallery. Also in Sofia a few years ago he presented a solo exhibition of his work with great success, organized in collaboration with the Italian cultural institute of Sofia. Instead, we have known each other since 2016 when we participated in the curatorial projects of Raul Zamudio of New York, created in Varna for the 8th edition of the international Contempo festival, and later in 2019 in Italy for the Contempo gallery where we were together with Stefano Cagol. I am truly honored that Vivian accepted our invitation and we can present this beautiful work to the Bulgarian public.", says Dr. Ivaylo Hristov, director of the HOST gallery, the well-known international artist and curator

HOST GALLERY is a new prestigious contemporary art gallery, based in the capital of Bulgaria, Sofia, founded by the well-known artist and curator Dr. Ivaylo Hristov. HOST gallery represents important international artists from Bulgaria, Austria, France, Finland, United States, Italy. He collaborates with well-known American and European curators.



bio (selected)

Paolo Vivian, 1962 | Cerso Di Pergine (Trento). Italy is a conceptual multidisciplinary artist focused on the field of collective memory, identity and their impact on social behavior. His works have been exhibited in China at the Shanxi Provincial Fine Arts Museum and the Songyang City Art Gallery; in the program of the European Capital of Culture, Vilnius (Lithuania) 2009; in the program of the 100th anniversary of the founding of Differdange, Luxembourg, in Hungary at the National Museum of Art in Budapest in the project "Heroes Corner", curator Simon Hewitt (Switzerland); in the Netherlands, an international sculpture project "Art&Nature" in Drenthe, under the auspices of the Queen of the Netherlands; in Germany in the sculptural international project "Off-ON", Hamburg; in international project "The Cure of Folly", Contempo Gallery, Pergine TN, curator Raul Zamudio (New York, USA); in Bulgaria - "Hortus Memoriae", a solo exhibition in the Shipka 6 gallery of the Union of Bulgarian Artists, in Sofia, organized by the Italian Cultural Institute, Sofia, in Varna in the Bulart gallery, within the framework of the August in Art festival, curated by Filip Zidarov 2008, in the Graphite Gallery, within the framework of the Contempo festival, curated by Dora Doncheva 2014, in the Porciuncola Museum, Assisi; in the Sant'Angelo Museum in Novacella Abbey, Varna (BZ); in the Arte Gallery, Palazzo Ducale, Genoa; in the Czech Republic, in the Krug Gallery, Ostrava; in Milan, VisualContainer's Dot Box Gallery, in the Ethnographic Museum, Fierozzo (Tennessee); in the international exhibition "Mediterraneo. Society at risk", BACS gallery, in Bergamo, etc. There are also over 20 solo exhibitions in Italy, Bulgaria and Lithuania. He is the winner of many international awards in Italy, France, Austria, Bulgaria. His works are part of public collections in China, Shaanxi Museum of Fine Arts, City Gallery, Varna, Bulgaria, Cultural Institute and Museum of Linguistic Diversity, Trentino, Casa Rurale Bank Collection, Trento, Wataro Town Hall Collection and Ala Town Hall, Trento His monumental sculptures are part of public collections in the Netherlands, China, Luxembourg, Germany, Poland, Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Italy. Represented by Contempo Gallery since 2017, he lives and works in Trentino, Italy.

Contacts:

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