

HOŠEK CONTEMPORARY

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MARCO SICILIANO - VERGISSMEINNICHT

Opening reception: 27th April 2021, 6 - 10 pm

Exhibition period: 28th April - 22nd May 2021

Set on an extensive spatial and temporal scale, Marco Siciliano's exhibition *VERGISSMEINNICHT* is to be understood as a journey. It leads from a boat on the Spree to an Italian city center, to the moon and even to the infinite expanse of the universe. While Hošek Contemporary functions as the guiding (space) ship, a satellite show has landed in the Milan project space Superfluo in parallel. At the same time, an artist book, published in limited edition, forms a dynamic extension of the exhibition. These three components, located in institutional, public, and private spaces, emerge emancipated in their individual forms and in their respective locations. They subtly refer to each other and prompt us to change the settings with the help of our imagination.

In his artistic praxis, Marco Siciliano draws on historical literature, scientific investigations or spiritual wisdom - a vast spectrum that he interweaves with intimate experiences in his works. The myriad starting points he relates to one another are reflected not least in the complexity of his multi-part and multi-disciplinary work *VERGISSMEINNICHT*. Photography, print and collage intertwine cleverly with installation, performance and book art.

One source of inspiration for his work is the popular epic poem *Orlando furioso* by Ludovico Ariosto from 1516, which tells the fictional story of Raging Roland who falls in love with princess Angelica and loses his mind in the process. While she flees from Roland - an action that establishes her as the major controlling figure of the narration -, a prince called Astolfo travels to the moon, where all that was lost on earth is located. There he finds the wits of the mad Roland and brings him back the elixir that was lost. The classic genre of the chivalric epic was then liberated by the figure of the anti-hero Roland. His pain and madness exemplify the vulnerability of a human suffering from lovesickness.

In *VERGISSMEINNICHT*, the moon, which in Ariosto's work appears as a kind of graveyard, bearing witness to the losses of the Earth's population, becomes a mysterious place of longing. The interior void space of the ship that houses Hošek Contemporary is visually impressive. As warm light penetrates from inconspicuous corners such as the hatch and bilge, the nothingness is illuminated - a visualisation of loss. Moving across the creaky wooden floorboards and feeling the gentle ripples of the river below, one is led to believe one have entered a barren moonscape.

This minimalist intervention is accompanied by a peculiar piece of music made in collaboration with the sound artist Luca Longobardi. For the musical composition, a photo archive by Siciliano is used. In the archive, the artist documents the locations of plasters he finds on the streets of Milan or Berlin. It is only in their accumulation that the ubiquity of physical pain is symbolised. It remains uncertain whether the healers have fulfilled their service when they lie lonely and forgotten on the roadside. The (in)attention they receive gives reason to wonder what attention we pay to pain and suffering. The numerous markings of the city maps result in a

cartography that resembles the constellation of the zodiac. Through the coordinates of the map of Milan, a sound model is thus established, transforming the imagined celestial formation into a sound piece that accompanies the lunar visit.

The archive of plasters is part of the approximately 70-page artist book, which brings together Marco Siciliano's many approaches. It also includes a series of collages that deal with the subject of psychosomatic pain. Anatomical drawings are superimposed with photographed hands, which in turn seem to penetrate through the surface of the skin. The artist is relating to the so-called *zodiac man* - a medieval notion of a roughly consistent correlation of zodiacal names with body parts. Oscillating between sexual pleasure and violent intervention, the legibility of Siciliano's images remains open.

The pages of the publication are unbound and only comprised in a handmade box. Thus, the order of the loose sheets can be changed, creating new contexts and reading directions. Excerpts from *Orlando furioso* intersect with human body parts and astronomical images of the moon and stars. As one flips through the pages, there is also an encounter with one's own corporeality, which shines through behind the milky, transparent paper. Our own hand merges with the depicted motifs and allows us to become part of the work.

The subjective sensation and the human togetherness are recurring motifs in the works of Marco Siciliano. He elevates the disregarded to the object of artistic investigation, which he delicately combines with astronomical, astrological and anatomical approaches to create an expanded image of the *conditio humana*. Those who join him on the journey will be able to perceive themselves and possibly rediscover something forgotten or lost - perhaps a part of their own self.

Text © Philipp Lange

During the exhibition period, the moonspace will be inhabited with a performance
by Heather Green and Marco Labellarte.

Hošek Contemporary

Established in 2016 by Petr Hošek, Hošek Contemporary is a gallery and art residency located on a historical cargo ship next to Fischerinsel in Mitte, Berlin. The gallery focuses primarily on site-specific pieces, performing arts and experimental sound works. During the spring and summer months, the gallery is hosting weekly improvised and experimental music installations, with local and international artists.

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