

GAZELLI ART HOUSE



© Giovanni Ozzola, Wall #14

PRESS RELEASE

Giovanni Ozzola

1982

Private View: Thursday 11th April, 6–8pm

Artist Talk: Tuesday 14th May 6–8pm

Exhibition: 12th April–18th May, 2019

#giovanniozzola1982

Gazelli Art House is pleased to present *1982*, a third solo show with the gallery by the Italian artist, Giovanni Ozzola.

At the core of this poetic odyssey is a film, titled *Warm Shadow # Intro*, 2019. Debuting during the show, the 2'30" film depicts a pair of female legs coming out of the water to a speeding heartbeat and just as quickly submerging back into the stillness of water. The effort of this underwater mastery is the underlying theme of the new body of work presented in the show – the suffering we go through to leave a trail behind, the way we mark a life and the way life marks or at times scars us.

For *1982* Ozzola, who's work often spans multi-faceted medium from photography and video to sculpture and installations, introduces century-old techniques that herald his artistic patrimony. Born in Florence, Italy, the artist reprocesses the technique of detachment to create his '*strappi di affresco*'. Using this difficult and expensive *modus operandi* to preserve sections of wall paintings, the artist produced a series of works titled *Walls* that reflect on mankind's compulsion to create and tell stories. *Walls* revive his interest in

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three-dimensionality and further demonstrate the artist's versatility and command of multiple disciplines. 'Gli strappi di affresco' or 'tearing' are comparable in nature to a video still. 'All of the walls define a time and a place,' says the artist. The public is invited to experience the physical and psychological processes that contribute to how the individual disseminates legacies and experiences.

The sculpture, 'Tus lunares son estrellas' [*Your beauty marks are stars*], incorporates the use of another ancient technology of casting molten metal inside a negative form. Bronze leaves are artificially created by the liquid metal flowing through linked piping. 'To make something artificial there is an order in the universe,' Ozzola comments, 'everything is created from one single matter.'

The exhibition culminates with another series titled, *Charts*. Inspired by the concepts of chiromany—from Greek *kheir* ("hand") and *manteia* ("divination")—and traumatic events that leave scarring on the skin. 'There is something in us all, urging us to follow one path or another, to take action or not. Some lines we are born with, others that result from surviving a [traumatic] event. These are all positive experiences that define our vitality.'

And so throughout the exhibition, elements of contradictory nature evoke conflicting responses attune to a life's experience – every story has two sides, every rose comes with a set of thorns. From the stillness of the water in the film, coupled with the increasing intensity of one's heartbeat setting the viewer into a state of "anxious serenity"; to preserved, marked parts of walls that are so fragile and personal despite their roughness, to a series of bronze plants – representation of mortal life immortalised by its medium of bronze, Ozzola once again impeccably captures the sensitivities of life experiences.

'We are thrilled to welcome back Ozzola into our program with never seen before works that are more sculptural than ever yet still contain the poetic subtlety that is so prevalent in his photographic works,' said Mila Askarova, founder of Gazelli Art House.

About

Gazelli Art House represents a wide range of international artists through its London and Baku galleries and presents a broad and critically acclaimed programme through global public projects and exhibitions. The gallery was founded in 2003 in Baku, Azerbaijan where it originally held exhibitions with local artists. Mila Askarova, Founding Director, opened a permanent space on Dover Street in 2012 following a series of conceptually interlinked off-site exhibitions across London. During the same year, the Window Project was launched to offer recent art school graduates an innovative display platform three times a year. In 2015 the gallery launched Gazell.io, a monthly online residency for digital artworks and Enter Through The Headset, an annual VR show. The Window Project, Gazell.io and Enter Through The Headset highlight the gallery's on-going commitment to supporting artists across different mediums.

For further information on 1982
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