

BALICE HERTLING

GALERIE

239 rue Saint-Martin
75003 Paris — France
T +33 (0)1 43 48 15 68
gallery@balicehertling.com
www.balicehertling.com

Press release

Enzo Cucchi

December 14th, 2017 | February 3rd, 2018

Balice Hertling is pleased to announce a solo exhibition by Italian artist Enzo Cucchi.

For his first show at the gallery, Cucchi presents recent sculptures, paintings, and drawings. As one enters, facing the wall, a Madonna bronze sculpture holds a bell that can be rung. Four large drawings suspended from the ceiling depict animal and human figures. As the artist states: "Each one of them acts as a key to understanding the exhibition. The drawings aren't hung directly on the wall as they usually would be...Each one of the depicted figures could eventually escape their image to enter into the exhibition space." On the main wall hangs a large three-dimensional gold painting entitled "Pietra" ("Stone") (2017). In another room, a series of small oil paintings represent eerie scenes and bifurcated faces: "Lontana" ("Far"), 2014, "Vieni con me" ("Come With Me"), 2015, "Ghiaccio...Bollente" ("Ice...Boiling"), 2015, "Alzati" ("Stand Up"), 2015 and "Cinema Pasolini", 2015.

Born in Morro d'Alba, Italy in 1949, Cucchi came to prominence in the late 1970s as a leading figure in the Transavanguardia movement alongside Sandro Chia, Francesco Clemente, Nicola De Maria, and Mimmo Paladino. The term Transavanguardia was first coined in 1979 by critic and curator Achille Bonito Oliva to describe the group's reintroduction of figuration and emotion into painting and sculpture as a reaction to the predominant conceptual and minimalist tendencies of the time.

Since the 1970s, Cucchi has presented numerous solo exhibitions in such institutions as the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam in 1983, The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York in 1986, Musée National d'Art Moderne Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris in 1986, the Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, München in 1987, Wiener Secession, Wien in 1988, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg in 1992, Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea in Turin 1993, Sezon Museum of Art, Tokyo in 1996, Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Hamburg in 1999, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv in 1999 and 2001, and the Académie de France à Rome, Villa Medici, Roma in 2006.

The exhibition is also accompanied by an artist's book published on the occasion of the show.