

PRESS RELEASE

**Li Chevalier
Trajectory of Desire**

Within the project
**From La Biennale di Venezia & OPEN to MACRO.
International Perspectives #4**

curated by **Paolo De Grandis** and **Claudio Crescentini**

Press preview: 27 January 11:00 a.m.
Inauguration: 27 January 2017 6:30 p.m.
Open to the public : 28 January – 26 March 2017

MACRO Testaccio – La Pelanda
Foyer 2, Teatro Studio 2, Piazza Orazio Giustiniani 4 – Roma

Fourth stage for ***From La Biennale di Venezia & OPEN to MACRO. International Perspectives***, conceived and curated by **Paolo De Grandis** and **Claudio Crescentini**, dedicated to the presentation in the MACRO areas of some international installations from the International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia and, on this occasion, the exhibition project has been extended to **OPEN International Exhibition of Sculptures and Installations**, artistic platform in parallel to the Venice Cinema Festival, with the aim of enlarging the selection specifically to the wide-ranging installations.

Promoted by **Rome Capital, Department for Cultural Growth - Capitoline Superintendency for the Cultural Heritage**, and organised in collaboration with **PDG Arte Communications**, the project sees the convergence of art “perspectives” of two cities that work to enable international art experience to travel over the national territory.

From the lagoon city to the Capital. Two cities linked by an impressive historic and artistic tradition that have succeeded in further enriching this experience to give a voice and life to contemporary art, to bring this resource to the forefront, making use of actions to document what exists, with promotions of events and international connections. Research launched by Paolo De Grandis in 1995 with the concept of external pavilions at the Venice Biennale and the presentation of new countries.

On the occasion of this fourth stage it will be presented the exhibition ***Trajectory of Desire*** by **Li Chevalier**, French Chinese artist who debuted in the previous edition of OPEN. Li Chevalier pursues an aesthetic research where the aesthetic is the value of things and reveals the truth of the world. It is marked by elegance and refinement of technique and

installation. When Li Chevalier leaves Beijing for Paris, her art arrives in a new dimension where Chinese tradition is nourished by an exquisitely western context that never absorbs it completely, but simply skims over it, making it more articulated. Another constant interest in Li Chevalier's life is music, which she has cultivated since the age of 15. She sang as a soprano in the Chorus of the Paris Orchestra directed by Arthur Oldham and Semyon Bychkov. She has worked over the years with the soloists of Paris Opera, and collaborated with the China National Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Philippe Jordan to a landmark event at the State Opera of China where the violin solo Frédéric Laroque gave an impromptu performance in front of her installation.

This passion for music gives her work a new expressive timbre. Among the most prominent exhibitions, Li Chevalier exhibited in major institutions such as the Royal Academy of Art London Summer Exhibition, the National Art Museum of China, the Shanghai Art Museum, the Today Art Museum, the National Library of China, The Sub-Marine Base Contemporary Art Centre Bordeaux France, the State Opera China.

Li Chevalier does not like borders. Neither those of disciplines, nor of traditions or schools. Multiple interlinkages in disciplines, aesthetic languages, filiations and origins, give to her works a particular vocation: on a pictural and philosophical trail, she leads the viewer through mysterious encounters towards a deep reflection on our systems of thought beyond any attempt at artistic hegemony. Her aesthetic concept of beauty questions the links that shape our intercultural dialogues. "...Only beauty can generate desire and its quest..." says Francois Cheng.

After 5 years of deep immersion in the Chinese Army's operatic troupes as a singer, Li Chevalier discovers major European capitals, enthusiastically embracing the atmosphere of such mythical temples of art and knowledge as Sciences Po, Sorbonne University, various Florence and Venetian art institutions, London Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, in quest of truth and beauty.

Li Chevalier claims to be profoundly contemporary but passionately refuses the dictates of aesthetic nihilism. Her works have a primordial character. No true feeling can arise from confrontation to an art work without the prism of aesthetic emotion.

According to François Cheng, "We could imagine a universe that would only be true, without the slightest idea of beauty touching it, it would be a universe only functional, or unfolded, uniform elements, which would move in an absolutely interchangeable way. Refer to an order of 'robots' and not to that of life".

In the MACRO Testaccio Li Chevalier presents "**Polyphony**", a monumental installation composed of violins and 30 experimental ink paintings. Li Chevalier works draw a trajectory with doubts and lightnings along the way, as her quest for beauty takes her to Rome, in her contemporary art journey.

Polyphony refers to musical writing in several voices, each with its own dynamics. It is the convergence of several parallel melodies in a musical ensemble respecting the rules of harmony. Thus the vertical chaining of different chords enriches the overall composition. The installation of Li Chevalier, composed of various arts elements drawn from the East and the West, is a metaphoric image of our world that can no longer slow down its pace towards a "common" space, where nations and civilizations interact, a thousand stories and inheritances cross. It intends to pay tribute to the creative vitality born out of encounters, of tolerance, of all those values that make Europe, what the artist was able to discover, a fertile ground for expression and dialogue.

PRESS INFO

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INFO FOR THE PUBLIC

MACRO Testaccio – La Pelanda

Piazza Orazio Giustiniani, 4 - Rome

Opening times: from Tuesday to Sunday, 2.00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (the ticket office closes an hour earlier)

Closed on Monday

Free admission to the exhibition LI CHEVALIER - *Trajectory of Desire*

INFO: 060608

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