

FIRST EDITION OF THE ANNA MORETTINI PRIZE “SAVONAROLA’S UNIVERSE”

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WINNER MAY 23, 2017 AT 11 A.M.

FLORENCE, PALAZZO STROZZI, SALA FERRI

FINALISTS: GLI IMPRESARI, LUIGI PRESICCE, STÉPHANE THIDET

PRIZE: 20,000 EURO AND AN EXHIBITION

This ceremony will symbolically take place on the anniversary of the death of Savonarola, a few steps from the Piazza della Signoria, where the Dominican monk was executed in 1498.



Ai Weiwei, *Girolamo Savonarola in LEGO*, 2016
Courtesy of Ai Weiwei Studio

Savonarola (1452-1498) was a mesmerizing preacher, often hated and contested but whose message has been, throughout centuries, the purpose of adverse movements. Preacher and political figure, he has influenced History, pursuing his denunciations towards the Church and society. He wanted to establish a “sanctified city beloved by God” where every citizen would have to commit himself to implement the holy message. The Bonfires of Vanities - in which books, artworks and all objects considered source of depravation were burnt - were believed essential to apply the strict moral reform.

THE PRIZE

The Anna Morettini Prize rewards a curious look brought by a contemporary artist on the Florentine tradition. This is the first edition of a competition that aims to develop each year a different theme related to the Florentine culture, which encourages the candidate to reflect on the parallels between what made magnificent Florence and the contemporary world. Thanks to the support of the Etrillard Foundation, the winner will receive 20,000 euro and an exhibition in Paris or in Florence.

The ambiguous personality of Savonarola was meant to inspire followers of this first edition to thoroughly reflect on spirituality, vanity and its role in artistic creation, and representations of art and power.

THE JURY

Caterina Biagiotti – Director, Progetto Arte Biagiotti
Arturo Galansino – Director, Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi
Stefania Gori – Art Historian
Laurent Grasso – Artist
Anna Morettini – Director, Etrillard Foundation
Ludovica Sebregondi – Curator, Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi
Giandomenico Semeraro – Vice Director, School of Fine Arts of Florence

THE CATALOGUE

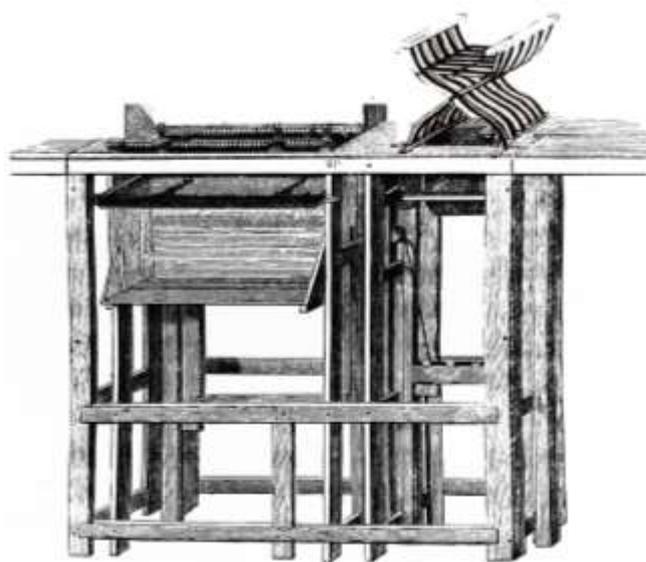
A catalogue in Italian-English displaying the projects of the three finalists will be published by “Gli Ori” of Pistoia. It will include a transcription of the conference about Savonarola organized by the Etrillard Foundation in Paris in June 2016, with the participation of Philippe Raynaud, Ludovica Sebregondi and Stéphane Toussaint, introduced by Philippe Trainar.

THE FINALISTS

The jury chose three finalists among the 40 candidates of 11 different nationalities: Gli Impresari (an artist collective composed of Edoardo Aruta, Marco Di Giuseppe and Rosario Sorbello), Luigi Presicce and Stéphane Thidet.

Each of the finalists brings a unique look on the subject. Their complementarity evokes the three aspects that make a comprehensive portrait of Savonarola, an historical figure which is still controversial today. His charismatic power is brought to light through the project *Il patibolo* proposed by Gli Impresari; the emblematic spirit is shown in the anatomical and symbolic aspects of the character through the project of Luigi Presicce, *Di Girolamo*. And the work *Solitaire* by Stéphane Thidet is an invitation to reflect on Savonarola's theology.

GLI IMPRESARI



IL PATIBOLO, 2016

Wood structure, brass, wooden chair
with black marble of Belgium
H 120cm x L 200cm x P 200cm

The project consists in the design and implementation of a public installation between a pulpit and an ephemeral construction.

«It would host mini conferences, readings, talks or individual speeches. (...) The intent is to create an installation that might serve as a mechanism to trigger and promote opinions, thoughts, visions. A "place" that, as it did for Savonarola, made possible a communication without filters, mediated only by the direct experience of speaking and listening. A pedestal, a monument, a tool, a stage of thought».
Gli Impresari

GLI IMPRESARI is an artist collective composed by Edoardo Aruta (born in 1981), Marco Di Giuseppe (b. 1984) and Rosario Sorbello (b. 1978) who work in Italy. They are currently engaged in a research project on Italian theater, stagecraft and, particularly, the complex world of theatrical machines, devices through which in the past it was possible to obtain rapid scene changes, sudden appearances or simulations of natural effects.

Gli Impresari have shown their work, among others, at the Manifesta 11 in Zurich in 2016, at MACRO (Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome) in 2015 and 2016, and in Venice in 2015 during the Art Night and at the Fondazione Bevilacqua La Mesa.

LUIGI PRESICCE



DI GIROLAMO, 2016

Lead model
23 x 13,5 x 11 cm

Luigi Presicce created a lead sculpture of the nose of Savonarola, a highly symbolic and representative attribute of this historical figure. He wishes to create a gold copy, in relation to alchemy, the Bible, and vanity.

«This prize would represent for me the opportunity to witness the realization of the ultimate alchemic dream: the transformation of lead into gold. I wish the nose, that characterizes Savonarola's profile, turned into pure gold».

Luigi Presicce

Born in Porto Cesareo (Lecce) in 1976, Luigi Presicce works and lives in Italy. A rich career characterizes his work full of mystery and charm. A complex symbolism emerges from the union of the profound interest of the artist for mystic, sacred and medieval iconography. He offers a reconciliation of old traditions through contemporary practices creating a strong tension between past and present, sacred and profane, imaginary and reality. In this way, he explores the concept of time, belief, gesture, symbolism and allegory.

In 2012, he took part in Artists in Residence at the MACRO, Rome. Since 2010 he is engaged in the project Lu Cafausu, with which he has been invited by AND AND AND to DOCUMENTA 13, Kassel. He performed at Kunsthalle Osnabruck, Germany (2015), MAMbo Bologna (2015), Museo Marino Marini, Florence and won Premio Talenti Emergenti, CCC Strozzi, Palazzo Strozzi, Florence (2011).

STÉPHANE THIDET



SOLITAIRE, 2016

In situ installation at the Collège des Bernardins, in Paris.

Water, wood, motors, two stranded tree stump, cables.

When the visitor enters the former Sacristy of the Collège des Bernardins, it is plunged in the dark and silence. The floor covered with water is slightly blurred by the infinite movement of two dead trees stumps suspended by large poles. Their shape and reflection play with the architecture of the Sacristy. This work is an invitation to contemplation and meditation.

«I think that the minimal radicalness with which I approached this work creates tension in the relation between the sacristy and the void, the silence, while simultaneously questioning the authority of a situation. (...) This suspension of the time, as I propose it, is not without evoking this place of worship in the way silence had to weigh upon the cell of Savonarola at the Convent of San Marco».

Stéphane Thidet

Stéphane Thidet was born in Paris in 1974, he lives and works in Paris and Aubervilliers. He graduated from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts of Paris in 2002 and the Ecole Supérieure des Beaux-Arts of Rouen in 1996. He teaches at the Ecole Supérieure des Beaux-Arts of Clermont-Ferrand (space and volume). By placing ordinary objects and playing with materials in specific places, Stéphane Thidet manages to create tensions between space and reality, the work and the viewer, and between peril and contemplation. The notion of readymade disappears, the staging of the objects becomes a re-composition of a fictitious atmosphere. It is the dissonance between reality and fiction which interests the artist. The use of real elements to create unreal dynamics underlies the sense of alteration important to Thidet.

Stéphane Thidet had solo shows at the Abbaye de Maubuisson, the Collège des Bernardins, La Maison Rouge and Le Palais de Tokyo, among other places, and participated to the Nuit Blanche 2016 in Paris.

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