

Metafisica da Giardino

Curated by Francesco Vezzoli

28 September – 15 December 2017

Nahmad Projects is pleased to announce *Metafisica da Giardino*. The exhibition, curated by renowned Italian artist Francesco Vezzoli, will run from the 28th September to the 15th December. The gallery will be radically transformed for *Metafisica da Giardino*: the floor will be artificially grassed and the walls painted entirely in murals stylising de Chirico's iconic motif of the Piazza d'Italia.

Vezzoli will bring together works by himself and a selection of paintings by Giorgio de Chirico, ranging from the 1920s to the 1970s. The goal is to create an historical dialogue, where the Italian twentieth century re-emerges as part of the present - as seen through Vezzoli's eyes. Highlights by Vezzoli in the show will include *Minima idea (Muso Dell'Antichità)*, an assemblage sculpture of a classical Roman bust and a new bronze head inspired by de Chirico's metaphysical figures. The exhibition will also feature early works by de Chirico such as *Les philosophes Grecs* (1925) and *Gladiatori* (1928), and later works, including *Bagni Misteriosi* (1974) and *Il Sole sul Cavalletto* (1968).

Curatorial interventions are not new to Vezzoli's practice, with projects in museums and galleries worldwide. In 2016, Vezzoli joined Museion in Bolzano, Italy, as a guest curator and displayed works from the collection alongside a retrospective of his own. His recent collaboration with the Italian national television broadcaster Rai at the Fondazione Prada in Milan used found footage shot by the channel in the 1970s to open a window onto the cultural influences of his youth. *Metafisica da Giardino* will be another act of "styling the past" by engaging with the twentieth century master Giorgio de Chirico. The show is also responsive to its site, in that de Chirico is an integral artist within the Nahmad Collection, creating a synergy between the artist and the history of the gallery itself.

Vezzoli has had an enduring interest in the artwork of Giorgio de Chirico since the early stages of his career. He has already manipulated de Chirico's Piazza d'Italia in architectural space with the addition of a bronze sculpture of Sophia Loren to Charles Moore's Piazza d'Italia in New Orleans. The site was the architect Moore's own homage to de Chirico's surreal spaces, with Vezzoli adding the third layer. Known for his embroidered panels, where he stitches over appropriated and reconfigured images, Vezzoli is redrawing the intersection of art history and pop culture for the twenty-first century. Such works include images from Giorgio de Chirico's metaphysical paintings alongside apparitions of celebrities past and present including Sergei Diaghilev and Lady Gaga.

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About Francesco Vezzoli

Francesco Vezzoli was born in 1971, in Brescia, Italy. He studied at the Central St. Martin's School of Art in London. He currently lives and works in Milan. One of the most successful Italian artists in the world today, his work can be described as a series of strong allegories about contemporary culture with a rich subtext of elaborate references involving video installations, petit-point embroideries, photography, live performances, media experiments and, most recently, classical sculpture. In both Vezzoli's embroideries and sculpture, regular references to Giorgio de Chirico bear witness to his fascination with the antecedent artist.

His works have been selected four times at the Venice Biennale: at the 49th, 51st and 52nd art editions held in 2001, 2005 and 2007, respectively, and at the 2014 Architecture Biennial. His works have also been featured in other international exhibitions such as the Whitney Biennial 2006, the 26th Biennale in Sao Paulo, the 6th International Biennale in Istanbul and Performa (2007 and 2015).

Vezzoli has also held solo shows around the world in venues such as the New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York; Tate Modern, London; MOCA, Los Angeles; MOMA PS1 in New York; MAXXI, Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI sec, Rome; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Kunsthalle, Wien; Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; The Garage CCC, Moscow; The Power Plant, Toronto; Jeu de Paume, Paris; Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin; Museo Serralves, Porto; Fondazione Prada, Milan; Le Consortium, Dijon; Fondazione Museion in Bolzano and NMNM- Nouveau Musée National de Monaco.

About Nahmad Projects

Founded by Joseph Nahmad in collaboration with Tommaso Calabro, Nahmad Projects opened in June 2016. The gallery is known for its innovative, multi-media shows as well as opening dialogues between artists rarely exhibited together. The previous exhibition *Rothko Cage Turrell* displayed one work by each of the three American artists, united around the theme of silence. This show comes after a sequence of exhibitions designed to breathe new energy into Mayfair's artistic landscape with experiments in exhibition format and unusual juxtapositions. This project will create an immersive environment, a surrealist space in which the worlds of two artists can collide.

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Practical details

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