

Matèria

Othello De'Souza-Hartley
& Silvia Rosi
Intimations
07.07.2022 -
24.09.2022

"I did come out with two invaluable intimations.
Talking to yourself can be useful.
And writing means being overheard".

Zadie Smith

Matèria is pleased to present Intimations, the first double solo show in Rome by Othello De'Souza-Hartley and Silvia Rosi, curated by Alessandra Migani.

The exhibition is organised in association with Autograph and the Donata Pizzi Collection. Collezione Donata Pizzi was founded with the purpose of promoting the discovery and understanding of the most outstanding and original Italian female practitioners. The works that compose the collection bear witness to the significant moments that have occurred in the last 50 years within the history of Italian photography by bringing to the forefront the conceptual, aesthetic and technological developments that have shaped this time-frame.

Intimations is born from the idea of further investigating the work of the two artists, originally commissioned by Autograph, London, for 'Care, Contagion, Community - Self & Other' (2020/2021) in response to the effects of the pandemic. Since 1988, Autograph, formerly known as the Association of Black Photographers, has been an agency that supports the work of artists who use photography and film to highlight issues of race, representation, human rights and social justice.

Othello De'Souza-Hartley and Silvia Rosi are united by the masterful use of the photographic self-portrait, by the introspective investigation and by the performance, taken in a dimension of forced suspension, evoking, with their work, a strong sense of intimacy, solitude, isolation and uncertainty. De'Souza-Hartley and Rosi experience the first London lockdown in March 2020 with a significantly different emotional state.

De'Souza-Hartley suffers the sudden loss of his father due to complications related to the Covid-19 virus. The proposal he receives from Autograph - and with him nine other artists - to create a work in response to the pandemic, turns into an opportunity to face mourning as well as the unlikely feat of 'moving beyond the pain'. In approaching the commission, the artist unhesitatingly confronts the absence of his father. The photographs taken reproduce stillness and silence. And then there is time: new, dilated, penetrable. The artist faces his mourning, yet lives it in forced isolation, allowing the long days at home and the tree he sees from his window every day, to acquire incredible strength symbolism. While the human species lives holed up and afraid of a virus, nature offers a longing for life, a meditative space. Through this realisation, the artist decides to focus his gaze on the tree that gave him a chance for transformation. Blind but I can see - video on show - reflects on how much, with increasing frequency, we become blind to what is in front of our eyes, taken up by our daily commitments.

Likewise Silvia Rosi also faced lockdown, in her case in the isolation of her London apartment, where everyday gestures turned into measured, pondered, experienced and ritualized movements. Rosi decides to wade through the anxiety of her confinement by setting a stage for her actions, and does so physically by building a cube / room in which to re-enter and re-imagine herself only when she feels ready to tackle and depict the themes and feelings identified during such an abnormal period. 'Neither could exist alone' takes shape around and expands towards a reflection on the structures we build around us, believing they can protect us from suffering and, instead, isolate us; inevitably transforming human relationships.

Othello De'Souza-Hartley

Othello De'Souza-Hartley was born in London where he still resides. He studied photography at Central St Martins and went on to gain an MA in Fine Art at Camberwell College of Art. His background in contemporary theatre and dance is evident in much of his work. The artist explores the human body - especially using self-portraiture as a tool for introspective and performative investigation - taking inspiration from major classical paintings. His multifaceted practice includes photography, video, performance, drawing and painting. De'Souza-Hartley is the recipient of a number of commissions including: Museum of Liverpool, National Portrait Gallery, Photographers' Gallery, V&A, Camden Arts Centre and Autograph ABP.
<http://othellosesouzahartley.com>

Silvia Rosi

Born in Scandiano (Italy), Silvia Rosi is an artist who lives and works between London, Modena and Lomé. She graduated from the London College of Communication in 2016 with a BA (Hons) in Photography. Her work traces her family history by drawing on her Togolese heritage and the idea of origins. In particular, the medium of the photographic self-portrait has allowed her, in recent projects, to explore the theme of family through shots in which she portrays her parents, recounting their experience of migration - from Togo to Italy. Her images are partially inspired by the West African studio portrait tradition. Her work has been published by Foam and the British Journal of Photography, among others, and selected for international residencies such as YGBI Research Residency (Florence, 2021) and Thread Cultural Centre and Residency (Sinthian, 2020). In 2020 she won the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards as an emerging talent and in 2022 she was one of the three finalists for the Maxxi Bvlgari Prize Award.

Alessandra Migani

Alessandra Migani mainly has professional experience as an independent curator. She graduated in Literature at the Art, Music and Performing Arts Department of La Sapienza University in Rome. In 2002, she started a long collaboration with the Enzimi Festival in Rome, presenting mainly art and music videos. She invited artists and directors including Flavia Sigismondi to Rome. In 2003 she moved to London where she attended an internship at onedotzero, a travelling festival that she presented in Rome as a preview. She began publishing her first articles for Digimag. In 2008 she attended the "Becoming an Independent Curator" course at Central Saint Martins in London. She collaborated on the creation and launch of a new art magazine in London: Rooms magazine (2010). She currently lives in Rome. Her research examines expressions of cultural identity within art forms such as photography, video art and site-specific installation art with a particular interest in the work of contemporary artists of the African diaspora. She writes for online magazines and maintains an Instagram page dedicated to artist studios: @those_secret_corners.

Based in the neighbourhood of San Lorenzo in Rome, Matèria opened its doors to the public in 2015. The gallery proposes an exhibition programme that touches upon all aspects of Contemporary Art. Since its founding, Matèria's purpose has been the furthering and development of the work of its selected group of Artists. The gallery programme features four exhibitions per calendar year, conceived and produced directly with its artists and often in dialogue with the space through a site specific approach. Matèria's gallery shows strive to further the research and experimentation aspects of artistic practice, with the results of this approach often showcased in a growing list of Italian and international art fairs.

Matèria represents the work of Fabio Barile, Karen Knorr, Mario Cresci, Xiaoyi Chen, Giuseppe De Mattia, Sunil Gupta, Marta Mancini, Stefano Canto and Eduardo Fonseca e Silva & Francisca Valador.

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Opening
07.07.2022, 6pm - 9pm
From 07.07.2022 to 24.09.2022
Matèria | Via dei Latini,27 - Roma
materialogallery.com

Matèria

Hours
From Tuesday to Saturday
from 11 am to 7 pm

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