

Matèria

Bekhbaatar Enkhtur  
Imagining for Real  
18.02.2023 -  
22.04.2023

Matèria is pleased to present *Imagining for Real*, the first solo exhibition in Rome by Bekhbaatar Enkhtur (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 1994), curated by Enrico Camprini.

The title of the exhibition, which references a recent book by anthropologist Tim Ingold, represents an effective formula for evoking Enkhtur's practice, in which imaginative, material, symbolic and historical-cultural dimensions coexist.

The exhibition aims to present the artist's work, offering a glimpse into his approach, which focuses on the various expressions of the medium of sculpture and, more generally, on the processes of shaping matter and its interaction with space and the viewer.

Bekhbaatar Enkhtur's practice is mainly realized through the creation of sculptures, often conceived in close relation to the place that hosts them. Proud and at the same time fragile images of zoomorphic figures - wolves, dragons, horses, foxes - represent an iconographic repertoire drawn from the myths and traditions of Mongolia that the artist intends to evoke, but above all they trace the coordinates of a sculptural practice that tends toward the ephemeral. In fact, the vital force of his works is revealed in a sort of self-destructive tension: Enkhtur's sculptures are often impermanent interventions that are born in the exhibition space and are not intended to survive.

Starting from visual references resulting from chance encounters or from characteristic elements of the cultural and religious context of his homeland, the artist conceives the exhibition space as a place inhabited by a series of presences belonging to an imaginative world, yet simultaneously strongly anchored in reality.

The focal point of the *Imagining for Real* is a site-specific work in wax and straw created by the artist in the gallery in the days preceding the opening, inspired by the event of the demolition of the Janraisig in Ulaanbaatar. The Migjid Janraisig statue, over 26 meters high, was erected in 1913 as a symbol of Mongolia's political independence but was removed by Soviet troops during World War II and later rebuilt in 1996. The visual and symbolic reference to this historical event - which centers iconoclasm as a theme of great and renewed importance - allows Enkhtur to deeply question some of the central questions within his practice: exhibition space as a metaphorical one, and sculpture as a reflection on the temporality and impermanence of matter.

The artist's research aims to bring out the intrinsic qualities of the materials used, both organic and inorganic, giving them a semblance of perceptible life in their progressive change, and common deterioration, as well as in the evidence of the gesture impressed in the molding of his sculptures.

Bekhbaatar Enkhtur (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 1994) studied sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna, where he currently lives. He has been an artist in residence at Kora Contemporary Arts Center, Castrignano De' greci, Mambo Museum, Bologna, Manifattura Tabacchi, Florence, Fondazione Lanfranco Baldi, Pelago, and Dolomiti Contemporanee, Borca di Cadore. He has exhibited in galleries, non-profit spaces, and institutions. Recent solo shows include: Oasis, a project curated by Ramdom in collaboration with Fondazione Elpis, 2022; Fuocherello, fonderia de Carli, Volvera TO; Cambio della guardia, Localedue, Bologna, 2021; Tsam, Marktstudio, Bologna, 2021; Zuult (Una boccata d'arte), Borgo Val Belluna, 2020. Recent group shows include: An Ocean Standing, Lc Queisser Gallery, Tbilisi, GA; Il rituale del serpente, Ex Convento di San Francesco, Bagnacavallo, 2021; Room 114 XY, Car Drde, Bologna, 2019; La pratica quotidiana, Oratorio di San Sebastiano, Forli 2019; Un anno lungo un giorno, Centro Pecci, Prato, 2019; Tragitti divaganti, P420, Bologna, 2018.

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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, Joachim Lenz, Stefano Canto and Eduardo Fonseca e Silva & Francisca Valador.

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Bekhbaatar Enkhtur  
Imagining for Real

Opening  
18.02.2023, 6pm - 9pm  
From 18.02.2023 to 22.04.2023  
Matèria | Via dei Latini, 27 - Rome  
materiagallery.com

Matèria

Hours  
From Tuesday to Saturday  
from 11 am to 7 pm

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