

***The April Theses, In The Russian East, Ritual***

The **Galleria del Cembalo**, for the anniversary of October Russian Revolution, proposes three different exhibitions dedicated to the subject, two by Davide Monteleone and one by Danila Tkachenko

**Davide Monteleone - *The April Theses***

In March 1917, Vladimir Ilych Ulyanov (Lenin), leader of the revolutionary Bolshevik Party, left his exile in Zurich. Eight months later, he assumed the leadership of 160 million people occupying one-sixth of the world's inhabited surface. On April 9th, with the support of German authorities, at war with Russia at the time, he travelled back to his own country on a train across Germany, Sweden and Finland to reach Finland Station in Saint Petersburg on April 16th where, after a decade in exile, he took the reins of the Russian Revolution. One month before, Czar Nicholas II had been forced from power when Russian army troops joined a workers' revolt in Petrograd, the Russian capital. In a bullet point document, known as The April Theses, Lenin called for the overthrow of the Provisional Government and outlines the strategy that, within seven months, will lead to the October Revolution and bring the Bolsheviks to power. 100 years later, Davide Monteleone created a chronology of two weeks of Lenin's life just before the events that changed Russia and the entire world. In search of the original draft of "The April Theses", Monteleone recreated and sometimes re-enacted, on a real and non-invented trip, Lenin's epic journey inspired by the archival documents he found at the R.G.A.S.P.I. (Russian State Archive of Soviet Political History) and historical books including "To Finland Station" by Edmund Wilson and "The Sealed Train" by Michael Pearson. The final work is a collection of contemporary landscapes, forensic archival photographs and staged self-portraits, which retrace a journey through space and time.

The exhibition shows a selection of prints from the book "The April Theses" (Postcart 2017) presented as an installation.

**Davide Monteleone - *In the Russian East***

Richard Avedon's "In the American West" is widely regarded as a landmark project in photographic history and a definitive expression of the power of photographic art. For "In the American West", Avedon travelled throughout five summers, meeting and photographing the plain people of the West: ranch workers, roustabouts, bar girls, drifters, and gamblers. With this images and concept in his mind, Monteleone emulates Richard Avedon's work in the Russian East, in an historical moment of high uncertainty in the relationships between the two countries. As Avedon he concentrates on simple people, far from Moscow and the political power, who like modern Oblomov are not interested in it. In those faraway regions the nationalistic echoes sound feebly, the consequences are imperceptible and the economy rhythms beat in different hour zones. Subject as descendants of gold miners, survivors from gulag, jews of the Siberian Israel and even heirs of millennial empire as the Buryats or the Mongolians after Genghis Khan, become icons of contemporary Russia in the portraits by Monteleone. The exhibitions "The April Theses" and "In the Russian East" are realized in cooperation with Heillandi Gallery, Lugano.

## Galleria del Cembalo

**Davide Monteleone** (b. 1974) is an artist and a visual journalist working on long term independent project using photography video and text.. He has devoted himself to the study of social issues, exploring the relation between Power and individuals. Known for his specific interest in the post-soviet countries, he published four books on this topic: Dusha, Russian Soul in 2007, La Linea Inesistente, in 2009, Red Thistle in 2012 and Spasibo in 2013. His projects have brought him numerous awards, including several World Press Photo prizes, and grants such as the Aftermath Grant, European Publishers Award and Carmignac Photojournalism Award. He regularly contributes for leading publications all over the world, and his projects have been presented as installations, exhibitions and screenings at festivals and galleries worldwide including the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Saatchi Gallery in London, MEP in Paris and Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome. He is engaged with educational activities, regularly lecturing at universities and teaching workshops internationally.

### **Danila Tkachenko - *Ritual***

The new project of Danila Tkachenko is dedicated to the anniversary of Russian Revolution. The author implements the metaphor of "burning everything that is dear" and is literally burning the symbols of the departing era, liberating the space for the bright future. The avant-garde artists of the early 20th century have manifested and anticipated the dramatic changes in the social structure; they were stating that the new ideal world should be built, and to reach this utopia, it is necessary to erase everything that was static, traditional and obstructing the new way of thinking. The burning structures are shot in the rural area, in the "clear field", and the twilight makes it unclear whether it is the sunset of the old world or the sunrise of the new era.

**Danila Tkachenko** was born in Moscow in 1989. After a long trip to India he develops a passion for photography and attend a course at the Rodchenko Moscow School of Photography and Multimedia. His first work, Escape, dedicated to hermits in the wild areas of Russia, receives remarkable appreciation from the international committees and is published in 2014 by Peperoni Books. In February 2016 the volume Restricted Areas will be published in Italy by Peliti Associati, promoter of the European Publishers Book Award.

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September, 22nd / November, 11th 2017

**Opening September, 21st - 6.30pm**

Galleria del Cembalo  
Largo della Fontanella di Borghese, 19 - Roma  
Tel. 06 83796619

OPENING HOURS  
Wednesday to Friday: 3.30pm - 7.00pm  
Saturday: 11am - 7.00pm  
or by appointment