

Rosenfeld Porcini

Press Release

MEMORY: Contemporary International Sculpture

7 October – 3 December 2011

Private View: 6 October 6.30-8.30pm
37 Rathbone Street
London W1T 1NZ



Roberto Almagno, *Memory*, wood, 420 x 300 x 300 cm

Rosenfeld Porcini are proud to present **MEMORY**, an exhibition of nine international artists working in sculpture today

MEMORY brings together seven European artists and one each from the UK and America: **Steve Goddard** (UK), **Andreas Blank** (Germany), **Leonardo Drew** (US), **Nicola Samori** (Italy), **Roberto Almagno** (Italy), **Spazio Visivo** (Italy), **Kaarina Kaikkonen** (Finland), **Rossana Zaera** (Spain), and **Mar Arza** (Spain).

From Roberto Almagno's beautifully-crafted abstract forms made from wood, to the visceral approach of Steve Goddard's pieces made of pigment, horsehair and clay, the exhibition showcases the diversity that exists in contemporary sculpture today. Each artist takes a radically different approach to their work, using different materials, aesthetic frameworks and concerns. All deal with "memory" in distinct yet equally powerful ways, and it is the poetic sensibility they share that creates a sense of unity.

Roberto Almagno, sculpts exclusively with wood that he collects in the forests outside his native city of Rome, and refines into works of great formal perfection that retain a contemporary lightness. His striking sculpture *Memory*, gives the exhibition its title. By contrast American artist **Leonardo Drew**, who also sculpts principally with wood, is more concerned with reflections on the human condition than idealist interpretations of nature, and finds his inspiration within the urban world.

Finnish artist **Kaarina Kaikkonen** is known for her large scale, visually complex narrative pieces made from items of discarded and recycled clothing. She will be showing a large wall piece and a smaller piece created from shirts and a jacket. Poignant and full of absence, her sculptures recall the people who previously inhabited the clothes.

Rossana Zaera also draws on personal and collective memory. Her wonderfully delicate yet powerful sculptures – often featuring her leitmotif bed – are made from a variety of materials, and continually appear to be on the verge of collapse, recalling the difficulties of childhood and the delicate trapeze act we all as human beings enact between life and death. For fellow Spaniard **Mar Arza**, memory is bound up with a philosophical discourse about time and the impossibility of permanence. She often works with text, paper and stone, and will be showing two pieces for MEMORY, including a sand piece which measures the ineluctable passing of time.

Spazio Visivo are two artists from Mantua; the sculptor **Paolo Cavinato**, and the composer, **Stefano Trevisi**. The principal work they will be exhibiting is both a wall-mounted installation and a soundscape, a 4-metre wall piece entitled *Icona*, which recounts the disappearing city of old Berlin. Comprising some sixty boxes of various sizes that are either painted or contain photographic and other images, this visual mosaic is accompanied by a soundscape made from recorded sounds of the city.

Andreas Blank's realistic carved *trompe l'oeils* seem casual at first sight. Yet on closer inspection, his arrangements are precisely staged and full of humour. Working with the technique of a classical carver, the light bulbs, transport boxes and wine bottles are made from rare stones such as marble, alabaster and sandstone. **Nicola Samori** is an artist steeped in the tradition of 17th century Italian painting and sculpture, but with a determinedly contemporary stance. He creates figurative pieces using traditional techniques, which he alters so that they become deconstructed representations of classical sculpture.

Steve Goddard, the only UK artist in the show, is painter as well as sculptor. Goddard works and experiments with alternative materials such as cloth, plastic, fabric, lace, horsehair and clay. For this exhibition, he will show a series of heads made from fibre and pigment, which include characters from the life and works of Vincent Van Gogh. Filtered with his personal approach, Goddard tells us a story of a personal trip bringing back old memories, lost worlds and cultures.

MEMORY is the second exhibition at this new Fitzrovia gallery, and the first in its series of occasional themed group shows. The exhibition will extend over both floors of the extensive gallery space.

Gallery address: 37 Rathbone Street, London W1T 1NZ
Telephone No: +44 [0]20 76371133
Website: www.rosenfeldporcini.com
Nearest tube: Oxford circus, Tottenham Court Road and Goodge street
Opening Times: 11am-7pm Tuesday to Saturday

NOTES TO EDITORS:

rosenfeld porcini gallery

Founded in June 2011 by Ian Rosenfeld and Dario Porcini, directors of Italy's Galleria Napoli Nobilissima, the rosenfeld porcini gallery occupies a prime location in the heart of the dynamic gallery district of London's Fitzrovia. With 3,000 square feet of gallery space, rosenfeld porcini has a strong international outlook committed to showing contemporary artists from around the world, and will draw upon the distinct yet complimentary backgrounds and expertise of the gallery's two directors with an innovative exhibitions programme. Old Master and Modern shows will occasionally be presented, either monographic or themed, within the context of the contemporary space, exploring a firm curatorial belief in the continuity that underlies the story of art.

Ian Rosenfeld is a photographer, film-maker and gallery director. He has had one man shows at the National Theatre, the Barbican Centre, the Pinacoteca in Bologna, the Palazzo dei Diamanti in Ferrara and the French Cultural Institute in Florence, amongst others. Two volumes of his work have been published, *Bologna: Time, Space and Photography* (Nuova Alpha) and *Ferrara: Echoes of Silence* (Alchima Art Publishing). Two of Rosenfeld's films have premiered at the Venice Film Festival, *Echoes of Time* in 1993 and *Doors of Memory* in 1998. He joined Italy's Galleria Napoli Nobilissima in 2007 with responsibility for the contemporary art exhibitions programme.

Contact: ian@rosenfeldporcini.com

Dario Porcini has been a director of the Galleria Napoli Nobilissima in Naples for over two decades. Originally founded by his father, the gallery takes its names from the art publication launched by the philosopher Benedetto Croce at the close of the 19th century. He obtained his degree in Fine Art from the University of Naples with a thesis on Neapolitan painting in the first half of the 17th century. Porcini is an expert on Old Master paintings and sculpture.

Contact: dario@rosenfeldporcini.com

Emily Dolan studied as a practicing artist for several years in a variety of institutions and has been working in a commercial capacity for the past 5 years at the Fine Art Society in the Contemporary Sales team. She has been an advisor to the Museum of Everything and last year assisted renowned American artist Leonardo Drew on his travelling American museum show. She has also participated in many national and international art fairs. Dolan studied for a BA in Fine Art from Bristol UWE College of Art after a Foundation course at Falmouth College of Art, with further studies at Florence Academy of Art and The Art Academy in London.

Contact: emily@rosenfeldporcini.com