

Press Release

Lanfranco Quadrio
The Agony of Actaeon

27 September – 21 November 2013

Private View: Thursday 26 September
6:30-8:30pm

37 Rathbone Street
London
W1T 1NZ



Lanfranco Quadrio, *The Death of Actaeon*, 2013
Mixed media on canvas, 148 x 200 cm

rosenfeldporcini is proud to present *The Agony of Actaeon*, the inaugural UK solo exhibition of the Italian artist Lanfranco Quadrio.

The exhibition will include mixed media works on canvas and paper across both floors of the gallery space. Using materials such as acrylic, charcoal, graphite, ink, pencil, pastels, and oil paints, the pieces presented recount moments deriving from two well-known Greek myths, the death of Actaeon and the myth of the monster Scylla – in particular when she devours Odysseus's sailors:

'the goddess [Artemis] flung the hide of a stag around Actaeon, arranging for him a death that came from his own hounds'

Pausanias 9.2.3 (Greece c. AD 110 – AD 180)

'they writhed gasping as Scylla swung them up her cliff and there at her cavern's mouth she bolted them down raw—screaming out, flinging their arms toward me, lost in that mortal struggle'

Homer (*The Odyssey* XII 275-79)

Born in 1966, Lanfranco Quadrio is a draftsman and engraver whose highly accomplished, complex and dynamic drawings fuse the ability of the Italian Old Masters with a highly personal contemporary vision. Quadrio's obsession with the world of Greek myths and his extraordinary technical ability transports the viewer back to the golden epoch of Italian drawing. Yet the violence present in the works, his experimentation with colour and lines on the canvas immediately returns us to our contemporary world.

From a narrative viewpoint, what intrigues Quadrio in the myths are the moments of violence. When the hunter Actaeon sees the Goddess Artemis (the Roman 'Diana') bathing naked in the water, she transforms him into a stag and he is then devoured by his own hounds. As this punishment is ordained by the Goddess, the hounds are forced into this act of violence. Furthermore, it is the violence of a group against the single. In contrast, during Renaissance times a more traditional

subject was the moment when Actaeon sees Diana bathing naked surrounded by her nymphs. For Lanfranco the work becomes a way of commenting on the violence of the mafia run boats which carry Africans, from their birthplaces of famine and uncertainty, to the promise of Italian prosperity. Similarly with his depicting of Scylla, it is the moment of violence and transformation which obsesses the artist: instead of the sailors being eaten by the monster, it is his imagined portrayal of the men falling towards the sea.

Beyond depicting animal and human anatomy with a surgeon's attention to detail, Quadrio's compositions are emotionally charged works which provide a poignant testimony to the violence which undermines our world. What begins as an illustration of a moment from a great, timeless story develops into a comment on both the human condition and the inevitability of violence.

Notes to Editors:

Lanfranco Quadrio was born in Lecco, northern Italy in 1966. He currently lives and works in Palermo, Sicily where he teaches Decorative Arts at the National Institute of Art. After finishing at the Academy of Fine Arts in Urbino (1988) Lanfranco Quadrio studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Palermo (1989), graduating with a specialisation in artistic anatomy.

Lanfranco Quadrio has featured in several solo and group exhibitions internationally including the Grand Palais, Paris; Science Museum, London; 'Grande Finale a.r.t fabric', Freland; Fondation Taylor, Paris; Biblioteca Nazionale Universitaria, Turin; Museo Marino Marini, Florence; Istituto Nazionale della Grafica, Palermo. Quadrio's work also features in numerous public collections such as Bertarelli Collection, Milan; Bisonte Cultural Centre, Florence; Museum of Contemporary Arts 'Villa Croce', Genoa; Civic Galleries of Monreale and Cremona and the National Museum of Krakow. His work has further been shown at several fairs such as the Fine Print and Drawing fair, New York; 'Salon du dessin contemporain', Paris; Art on Paper Fair, London; Arte Fiera, Bologna; Foire d'art moderne et contemporain, Bruxelles; Art Paris. The artist has won major awards such as First Prize in the international competition of graphic art 'Concorso internazionale di grafica 40 anni del Bisonte', Florence (2000) and First Prize at the VI Biennial of Engraving of Acqui Terme (2001).

Rosenfeld Porcini Gallery

Founded in June 2011 by Ian Rosenfeld and Dario Porcini, directors of Italy's Galleria Napolinobilissima, rosenfeld porcini 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 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.

Exhibition Schedule

29 Nov 2013 – Jan 2014 Emmanuel Barcion: Solo Exhibition

Nearest Tube: Oxford Circus, Tottenham Court Road and Goodge Street
Opening Times: Tuesday to Friday 11am-7pm
 Saturday 12-6pm