

Christian Holstad's Papier-Mâché Exhibition to Grace Museo Civico Luigi Varoli

Cotignola, Italy – In a celebration of contemporary art and the transformative power of papier-mâché, the Museo Civico Luigi Varoli in Cotignola is set to unveil “Salve,” an exhibition featuring the works of American artist Christian Holstad. Scheduled for inauguration on Saturday, March 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., this exhibition is part of a comprehensive project spearheaded by curator Gioele Melandri, aiming to explore and elevate the role of papier-mâché in modern artistic expression.

Holstad, born in Anaheim, California in 1972, brings a distinctive sensitivity to the utilization of papier-mâché, delving into themes of rejection, waste, and the metamorphosis of these elements into potential sources of inspiration. His oeuvre reflects the paradoxes of contemporary consumer society, confronting viewers with a visionary reinterpretation of everyday objects. Shopping carts, microphones, jewelry, and even serpents become symbolic conduits through which Holstad challenges societal norms and perceptions.

At the heart of the exhibition lies an exploration of papier-mâché as a catalyst, igniting a dialogue between the artist, his creations, and the audience. Divided into two acts, the showcase promises a multi-faceted journey into Holstad's artistic universe. The first act, titled "A flutter of butterflies atop debris to reach our gentle heights," premiering on March 9th, features Holstad's monumental installation "Gentle Parade." This captivating display intertwines deconstructed shopping carts with delicate papier-mâché butterflies, inviting viewers to contemplate notions of gentleness and resistance amidst societal flux.

Accompanying this centerpiece are Holstad's intricate paper sculptures from the late nineties, alongside a curated selection of new works tailored specifically for the occasion. Transitioning seamlessly into the second act, "Hello," which opens to the public on April 12th, visitors will be immersed in Holstad's world of newspaper paper drawings. Originating from private collections across Italy, Europe, and the United States, these drawings offer a glimpse into the artist's evolution over the past decades.

Expanding beyond the confines of Museo Civico Luigi Varoli, "Salve" extends its reach to the nearby Chiesa del Pio Suffragio, where additional sculptural works by Holstad will be on display. Collaborative efforts with the cultural association MAGMA further enrich the exhibition experience, presenting a diverse program of events and activities.

Supported by the Municipality of Cotignola and Gruppo Hera, "Salve" marks a significant milestone for Christian Holstad, as it represents his first solo exhibition in Romagna. This

region, where the artist has immersed himself for several years, serves as an inspirational backdrop for his artistic endeavors.

Complementing the exhibition is a comprehensive catalog and a series of guided tours and educational workshops, providing visitors with deeper insights into Holstad's creative process and thematic explorations.

Christian Holstad's artistic trajectory has left an indelible mark on the international art scene, with notable exhibitions across prestigious galleries and institutions. From Paris to London, Milan to New York, his works have captivated audiences worldwide, offering profound reflections on contemporary society and culture.

As "Salve" prepares to unfold its artistic tapestry, it promises to captivate and inspire, inviting viewers to embark on a transformative journey through the enchanting world of Christian Holstad's papier-mâché creations.

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