

MIMMOSCOGNAMIGLIO ARTECONTEMPORANEA

LJUBODRAG ANDRIC *INVISIBLE SPACES*

OPENING: 22 FEBRUARY 2018 from 6.30 pm

PERIOD: 23 FEBRUARY – 9 APRIL 2018

HOURS: TUESDAY – SATURDAY: 11.00 am – 7.00 pm

Mimmo Scognamiglio Artecontemporanea is pleased to present *INVISIBLE SPACES*, a Ljubodrag Andric solo show.

Ljubodrag Andric was born in Serbia and has been living in Canada for the past 15 years. This exhibition marks his return to Italy, after two years of absence. In 2017, his work has been exhibited at the Musée des beaux-arts in Le Locle, Switzerland in a solo exhibition paired there with exhibitions of Sol LeWitt and Anni Albers under the common theme of *Abstraction*.

This corpus of unpublished large format photographs, where every temporal symmetry is denied, is exposed as a sequence of variations on a theme. They take the viewer through abstract spaces, made of light and color alone that however, as in a fresco, refer to tactile sensations that emphasize the image's material, textural qualities. Always characterized by the absence of the human figure, Ljubodrag Andric's photographs are an exercise in style that, while rooted in early Italian Renaissance and in the art of Piero della Francesca and Beato Angelico, eventually evolved into a synthesis of abstract-geometric kind in which **the only possible subject is time** – or rather the imprint of time in architectural spaces achieved through skilful use of light.

The formal dimension, played out here entirely on symmetries (intended as balance), is for the artist only a starting point. **The "search for the ideal light" is the principle underlying each of his works and neutralizes any possible narration related to the place and time when the photograph is taken.** Like the list of an archive, each image is titled only by the city and the year in which it was made, thus defining spatial and temporal coordinates but, through a unique abstract vision that the artist has built in his mind for that place, the concepts of time and space take on other meanings.

This work is therefore made of waiting, as by a craftsman of the image, that does not start from the fascination for a given subject, as most photographers do, but builds the image through an intuitive process that ends when a deep intrinsic equilibrium is reached, then immediately accessible to the observer. As Barry Schwabsky states in the critical text about Andric's work *Images in time*, the artistic research of Ljubodrag Andric *"is an experience based on duration. It is not a flash, a fleeting appearance, a shock. The image makes us slow down, it educates us to a quiet receptivity. It is not something to look at: every gaze here is unarmed. Rather than penetrating it, we want to be with the image, next to it."*

Using a completely matt and extremely smooth paper, physical support disappears and the skilful use of light tends to produce an experience total immersion in the work that is both material and intangible, almost too real to be true. What Ljubodrag Andric brings to life is **a hyper place that** (in contrast to the non-places of Marc Augé characterized by the lack of identity, relationships and history) **takes on an almost sacred dimension, a point of perfect equilibrium, a magic hour that makes us sense to be exactly in the right place at the right time.**

MIMMO SCOGNAMIGLIO S.R.L.

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BIOGRAPHY

Ljubodrag Andric is a self-taught fine art photographer.

Born in Belgrade, Yugoslavia in 1965 into a family of artists, Andric started his involvement with art and photography at the age of 15. He studied humanities at the University of Belgrade, then dedicated himself entirely to photography in 1987. At age 21 Andric received his first professional commissions of mostly architectural photography. He had his first exhibition - at the gallery of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Belgrade - at the age of 23.

In 1987 Andric moved permanently to Rome, Italy where he had successful studio practices in both Rome and Milan over the following 15 years. He won numerous international awards for his commissioned work during these years, while continuing his art work and research.

In 2002 Andric moved to Canada, with the intent to progressively focus on his art practice alone. Andric now resides in Toronto, Canada. He is citizen of Canada, Italy and Serbia. He continues to travel between continents and over the last few years he has been exhibiting extensively in museums, galleries, art festivals and fairs worldwide.

A comprehensive monograph about Andric's work was released in 2016, edited by Demetrio Paparoni and published by SKIRA (Milan, Italy).

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2017

Ljubodrag Andric: Walls, Musée des Beaux-Arts, Le Locle, Switzerland.

2016

Ljubodrag Andric: Works 2008-2016, La Triennale di Milano, Milan.

Ljubodrag Andric: Consonanze, Fondazione Querini Stampalia, Vencie.

Ljubodrag Andric: The Necessary Time, Istituto Italiano di Cultura Toronto, Canada.

Ljubodrag Andric: Works 2008-20016, Galleria Carla Sozzani, Milan.

2015

Visible Cities, Nicholas Metivier Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

2014

Visible Cities, Robert Koch Gallery, San Francisco, California, USA.

1986

Scorci Italici, Contemporary Art Museum, Belgrado, Serbia.

RECENT GROUP SHOWS

2016

Ljubodrag Andric, Bocconi Art Gallery, Università Bocconi, Milan.

Latitudes: Inhabiting the Distance, Galleria In Arco, Turin.

Changjiang International Photography and Video Biennale, Changjiang, China.

2015

Visible Cities, Pingyao Photography Festival, Pingyao, China.

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