

Fondazione Querini Stampalia
Castello 5252, Venice
August 26th – October 2nd, 2016

vernissage
Thursday, August 25th
7 pm

Ljubodrag **Andric** Consonance

Visions & Contaminations
between East and West
in harmony with Carlo Scarpa

Exhibition curated by Francesca Valente

Walls that talk and listen

Ljubodrag Andric creates large-scale photographs that dominate the entire field of vision, absorbing the viewer. Their visions linger on architectural details devoid of the human figure and are shot frontally, highlighting the metaphysical fixity of the walls and the horizontality of the lines that continue beyond the margins of the image. The walls Andric presents may be bare, but they are not silent. Abstract and naturalistic elements merge as the colourful backgrounds reminiscent of abstract painterly techniques are abruptly interrupted by details of concrete reality. Slowly we notice patches of damp creating a bloom of discolouration, imperfect layers of cement, cracks reaching across the façade, a resilient tuft of grass, or an incongruously placed door handle. These urban landscapes absent of any physical human form invite reflective contemplation as the walls are there, but not those who built them or those who lived behind them. Thus they challenge the viewer into engaging with a space inhabited by potential relationships, as we explore new visions and imbue the photographs with personal meaning and value. The dialogue generated by these images is further extended to include the space in which they are exhibited, the Fondazione Querini Stampalia, an inspiring and celebrated work of the architect Carlo Scarpa.

Francesca Valente, the exhibition curator and former director of the Italian Cultural Institutes in San Francisco, Toronto, Vancouver, Chicago and Los Angeles, points out that, "in the context of the Fondazione Querini Stampalia, Andric interacts with Carlo Scarpa in a dimension suspended between the East and the West, and intrinsic to Venice. His glance is attracted particularly by the hidden garden, the ideal place for an inner journey, however incomplete or tenuous. As a result, the images create a path of effective emotional synthesis, which takes the form of a complex and layered personal identity. We are presented with a wealth of suggestions and memories, observations and reflections, that appear paradoxically remote and familiar, ancient and contemporary."

Tobia Scarpa also contributes to the accompanying text of the exhibition as he observes the dialogic potential of photographs. He notes, "In the powerful images by Ljubodrag Andric [...] form and human heritage are investigated in a manner devoid of pretence or presumption that invites curious and reflective contemplation as well as awakening a host of intertwining questions."

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CANADIANART



Ljubodrag Andric (Belgrade, Yugoslavia, 1965) was born into a creative family with his father working as a writer and a playwright, and his mother as an actress. After graduating in Literature from the University of Belgrade, he devoted all his efforts to photography, an interest which he had started developing at the age of fifteen. In 1986 Andric moved to Rome and became an Italian citizen three years later. He later transferred to Toronto, Canada, where he currently resides and has been a citizen since 2002.

The large-scale photographs produced by Andric are characterised by the absence of the human figure. They focus instead on a formal structure that despite containing attention to realistic detail is rooted in various forms of geometric abstraction. The images are rich in tactile quality reminiscent of frescoes, which reflects Andric's interest and knowledge of the history of Italian painting. This year his work is presented at the sixth edition of the Bocconi Art Gallery (BAG) and at the Triennial, both in Milan.

An extensive monograph of Andric's work was recently published by Skira, which was presented at the Carla Sozzani Gallery in Milan on May 25th 2016. Titled *Ljubodrag Andric, Works 2008-2016*, it was edited by Demetrio Paparoni with contributions from William Ewing, Barry Schwabsky, Aldo Nove and Philip Tinari.

www.ljubodrag-andric.com

"Andric looks at the geometry of the space with the same logic with which Morandi formally built the models of his still lives."

Demetrio Paparoni

"For Andric, abstract sensations can be found by way of actual places, far from being diluted by compromise, which are as resonant and powerful as those without any referent in reality."

Barry Schwabsky

"It is Andric's unique sensibility about what the lens can do so aptly – the way it serves less to memorialise the particular state of that which it captures rather than to acquiesce to its mutability and impermanence – that characterises these images. [...] Today, Ljubodrag Andric's uniquely rhetorical approach to image making, driven particularly by a finely attuned radar for ambivalent monumentality, comes to seem more radical and urgent than ever."

Philip Tinari

"Andric takes us beyond the walls. Often through exhaustion. By denying us relief. He pushes us into the wall and forces us (to our great pleasure, I must say) to recognise its limit but also its impossibility."

Aldo Nove

The exhibition

A collection of more than thirty images will be exhibited at the Fondazione Querini Stampalia, Venice, from August 26th to October 2nd, 2016. The selected works are the latest creations by the artist including photographs shot in various locations ranging from China to San Francisco and Miami, with forays into his country of residence, Canada, and Europe with particular focus on Berlin and Venice.

Artist

Ljubodrag Andric

Title

Consonance.
Visions & influences from East and West
in harmony with Carlo Scarpa

Curator

Francesca Valente

Exhibition design

Tobia Scarpa

Graphic design

Michela Scibilia

Collection

Personal exhibition

Medium

Photography (large-scale prints)

Location

Fondazione Querini Stampalia
Castello 5252, 30122 Venice
Open 10 am–6 pm (closed on Mondays)

The visit to the exhibition is included in the ticket at the Querini Stampalia Foundation: full € 10 (reduced € 8). Free admission for residents of the City of Venice every day from 10 am to 3 pm and for library users on Wednesdays (full day).

Date

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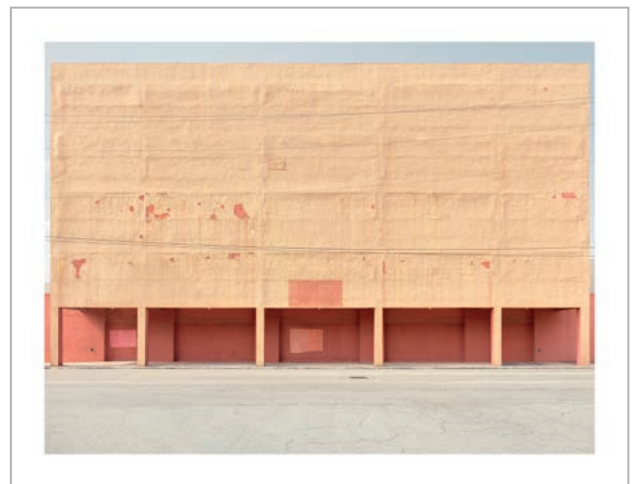
Pingyao 2, 2015



China 12, 2012



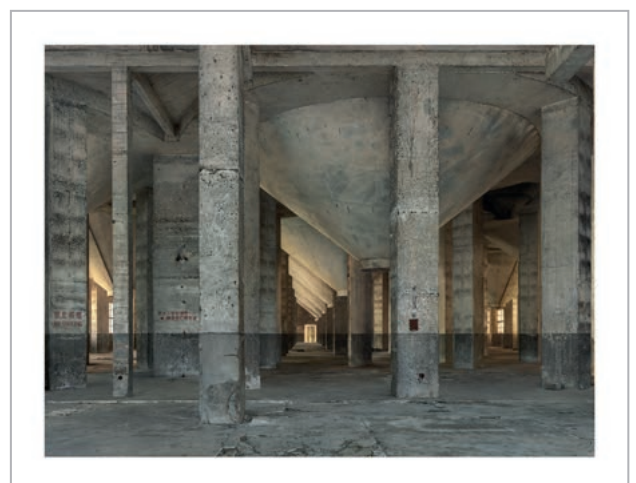
Venezia 2, 2009



Miami 1, 2011



China 2, 2013



China 21, 2012

Ljubodrag **Andric**

exhibitions 2016



Thursday, May 12

BAG 2016

Bocconi Art Gallery – sesta edizione

www.unibocconi.it

Università Bocconi, Via Sarfatti 25
Milan



May 23-September 11

Galleria Carla Sozzani

www.galleriacarlasozzani.org

Corso Como 10
Milano



August 3 – September 24

Triennale

www.triennale.org

Viale Alemagna 6
Milan



August 26 – October 2

Fondazione Querini Stampalia

Castello 5252

Venice

www.ljubodrag-andric.com