

VITTORIO MESSINA

“Natural Theater, evidence of archeology to come”

October 9, 2019 – January 11, 2020

Essay by Valentino Catricalà

Opening: Tuesday, October 8, 2019, 6 – 8pm

7 pm: presentation and performance

Scaramouche Loves Aline is pleased to present “Natural Theater, evidence of archeology to come” a solo show by Vittorio Messina, opening Tuesday, October 8, 2019 and open to the public through Saturday, January 11, 2020.

The notion of archeology is a complex concept that invokes a different idea of time, of space, of history, but also a new idea of the future. Vittorio Messina’s “Natural Theater, evidence of archeology to come” becomes a way to investigate the disjointed occurrence of events, facts and documents that render history possible – a favored accumulation of “ruins” – and the motives for which those facts and those documents continue to exist. Messina’s work catapults us into a space that connects the multiplicity of temporal dimensions. At the start of his career in the mid-70’s, Messina focused his artistic pursuit on conceptualism and the avant-garde movements of those years, promptly orienting his own work in a multimedia direction. In addition to the works *Findings*, *Broken bones*, and *Ruins*, transcribed like catastrophic events, the series *Evidence of Archeology to Come* and *Factorial Landscapes* were born and would have a long continuum in the entirety of his work. Today the heart of Messina’s “Natural Theater” is a large, site-specific sound installation, created ad hoc for this exhibition, continuing the artist’s work with the use of auditory materials and opening a perspective for us on the relationship with technology and a reflection on our era. Like great literature that inspires us, Messina’s work is based on the dialectic rejection of every preconceived model.

Vittorio Messina (Zafferana Etnea, 1946) moves to Rome at a very young age in the early 70’s. He completes his studies at the Accademia di Belle Arti and the Facoltà di Architettura. His first solo show in 1978 is presented at the experimental space Sant’Agata dei Goti in Rome.

In 1981 he debuts in Milan at the Galleria Diaframma, and in 1982 with Liverani at La Salita in Rome. He exhibits at Massimo Minini, Brescia in 1984 (with Garutti) and again in 1991. Messina’s first important international exhibitions begin in 1986 with Shimada Gallery in Tokyo, Japan and Moltkerei Werkstatt in Cologne, Germany.

His first collaboration with Tucci Russo, Turin comes in 1990, and with Victoria Miro, London in 1992. 1994 includes exhibitions at Kunstverein Düsseldorf, New National Gallery of Berlin, Henry Moore Institute of Leeds, U.K., as well as a second solo show at Tucci Russo.

Following numerous shows abroad and in Italy, Messina closes the 90’s with large exhibitions at the Henry Moore Foundation and at GAM Turin, both in 1999.

The many exhibitions of the 2000’s include solo shows at Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art, Warsaw (2002), Villa Massimo, Rome (with Thomas Schütte) in 2011, MACRO (2012 and 2014) and Museo Riso, Palermo (2016).

Among more than 150 group exhibitions, Messina has participated twice at PAC Milan (1985 and 1986), XI and XII Quadriennale of Rome (1986 and 1996), shows at Reina Sofia, Madrid (1990), Kunstverein, Kassel (1991), Chelsea Art Museum (2003) and Apexart (2004), both in New York, and the latest invitation from the Biennale of Havana in April/May of 2019.

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Hours: Tuesday 3 – 7pm, Wednesday – Saturday 11 – 1pm / 3 – 7pm