

PIETRO PASOLINI

WE ARE THE LAND

curated by Ed Spurr

June 23rd 2021 - September 30th 2021

Via del portico d'Ottavia 13, Rome



PRESS RELEASE

Valentina Bonomo Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of the second solo exhibition of Pietro Pasolini at the portico d'Ottavia.

"We are the Land" is the new cycle of works by the Roman-Brazilian born, artist **Pietro Pasolini** created in direct response to the dramatically accelerating destruction of the world's forests. This, his latest exhibition, asks us to think about trees, forests and the natural world – a world in which biodiversity is being lost at 100 times the normal rate thanks to reckless human intervention.

"Nature is not a place separate from ourselves where we act out the drama of our isolated destinies. It is not a means of survival or a setting for our affairs ... It is instead a part of our being - dynamic, significant, real. It is our self." Annie I. Booth

The show opens with a large-scale aerial photograph of the rainforest from a series taken last year with the aid of a drone on the artist's trip to the Amazon. The photograph transports us above the Ecuadorian rainforests from where our perspective reveals the majestic magnitude. As the environmental writer Barry Lopez has noted 'forests defeat the viewfinder...they cannot be framed'. We admire the thick and sprawling tropical canopy, both stunningly complex and visually confounding, and are compelled to reflect on the ways in which arboreal life has been affected by man – by us. The image places us firmly in front of the artist's concerns:

GALLERIA VALENTINABONOMO

"I had started to read about the consideration that Native Americans have for Mother Nature, where mountains and rivers, trees and animals all have their own spirit... it was that spirit that I wanted to give voice to..."

This starting point leads us to the second room, where we are now in the heart of the forest. Large copper panels surround us and on each, we see depictions and imprints of leaves and foliage. The oxidised panels are created with Pasolini's unique plein air process with which the artist arranges fragments of the natural world - branches, leaves, palms - into intricate tableaux to be activated by weather and the passage of time.

The copper panels react with the elements, making sublime photograms and creating a spiritual depth that pulls the viewer into its natural, almost fairytale-like realm. In doing so, Pasolini bridges the gap between photography, sculpture and painting, as well as the divide between artist, object and viewer. In these new works, created especially for the exhibition, he uses this language to conceive a unique space between photographic fidelity to a subject and painting's intimate interpretation.

A new technique inspired by an ancient one, that of the prehistoric cave-dweller is the beginning of mark-making, that first use of a piece of earth as brush and the slack of stone as the canvas. The artist decided to return to these fundamental creative processes, simplifying the act of making art to its very core.

"Like the caveman, I returned to the forest: here the natural world became my studio and the elements the tools - the paint and brush - to produce my work. By exposing different materials to the elements of water, fire, sunlight and wind, I started giving form to a body of work that is the outcome of a close collaboration between human thought and the unpredictability of nature. A physical diary of the most ancient relationship in human history: the one between nature and man."

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BIOGRAPHY

Pietro Pasolini was born in Brasil in 1992. Raised in Rome, he later moves to London where he studies photography at the Saint Martins University. In 2016 he moves to New York obtaining his photography masters at the International Center of Photography (ICP). During his American experience his work undergoes a big change, evolving into a close consideration of the way in which we perceive and accept the environment that surrounds us. His works astound and overturn the notion of reality as objective truth, pushing us to accept it "as a vortex in a never-ending alteration". The impermanence and the vulnerability, both essential characteristics of life, become the core of his work which, through the choice of uncertain materials and techniques that have been developed by the artist, braces itself to being reinterpreted in time. Pietro's works are born through a sought-after collaboration between the artist and nature and it is the close contact with the impermanence of the natural environment that gives some of his works an evolving capability. He now lives and works between Mexico City and Tuscany. His works have been exhibited in many institutions and galleries among which The International Center of Photography, Galleria Valentina Bonomo, The Sculpture Park and Gallery OneTwentyEight.

2020: Jaipur, Group Exhibition, The Sculpture Park
2020: Città del Messico, Solo Exhibition, Torre Carso, "We all come from the sea"
2019: HyperMaremma, Group Exhibition, "Omaggio a Staccioli"
2019: Monteverdi, Solo exhibition, "An Homage to Val d'Orcia".
2019 Capalbio, Group Exhibition, "Raccontare lo Spazio"
2018: Rome, Group Exhibition, The Orange Garden, " Hyperland"
2018: Capalbio, Group Exhibition, La Vallonea, " Nuova Terra/ Antica"
2017: Rome, Solo exhibition, Gallery Valentina Bonomo, "UnStill Life"
2017: Miami, Group Exhibition, Locust Projects.
2017: Capalbio, Group Exhibition, Capalbio Contemporary, "Undisclosed Stories"
2017: Capalbio, Group exhibition, Galleria il Frantoio, Tree Line Residency, "Down to Earth"
2016: Rome, Group exhibition, The Orange Garden, "Aporia"
2016: New York, Group exhibition, International Center of Photography, "Another kind of Paradise"
2016: New York Solo exhibition, Gallery OneTwentyEight, "Microcosm".
2016: Rome, Group exhibition, The Orange Garden, " Emergenza"
2015: Milan, Solo exhibition, Galleria Superstudio Piu, "The forgotten world of photography".
2014: Rome, Solo exhibition, Galleria RossoCinabro, "Portraits of a changing world".