

# IN THE DEPTH OF IDENTITY

Christian Fogarolli, Bepi Ghiotti, Tamara Janes, Francisco Muñoz Perez  
curated by **Andrea Lerda**

**12 Oct. - 18 Dec. 2017**

**Opening: Thursday 12 October 2017 at 6 p.m.**

Studio la Città - Lungadige Galtarossa 21 - Verona



above left: Francisco Muñoz, *Ashes garden* - 2016

above right: Bepi Ghiotti, *Mio caro Richard* - 2017

bottom left: Tamara Janes, *STILL LOADING TAMARA JANES* - 2016

bottom right: Christian Fogarolli, *Amoral* - 2015

On Thursday 12 October 2017 Studio la Città will be opening the group show titled *In the depth of identity*, with works by **Christian Fogarolli, Bepi Ghiotti, Tamara Janes, Francisco Muñoz Perez**, curated by **Andrea Lerda**.

It is very difficult to define, but how many times have we been tempted into thinking about the concept of "identity"? How many circumstances have there been when the question of identity has imposed itself as the protagonist of such a thorny yet delicate debate?

"Identity" is certainly one of the most widely used terms in the fields of psychology, sociology, medicine, and anthropology, but also in the fields of politics, journalism, and television. We find it the protagonist in the world of advertising, the press, fashion, and in the digital world too. The word is always on the tip of our tongue when we speak of Europe, when we argue about gender differences, and each time we try to lay claim to one position rather than another.

By now it seems confirmed that identity, besides its biological and mental components, is a social and cultural product, and that a renewed interest in it is aroused during historical periods of crisis. Today's cultural impoverishment, created by the increasingly intrusive presence of the internet galaxy, can be considered as a moment that has reached a critical point. The most recent society has, in this sense, a particularly strong role to play: today we are most often led to consider identity as a

“place for gathering together”, a secure roof to take refuge under.

Through its commercial, economic, and political puppets, together with the rhetoric of advertising and the mass media, contemporary society's power presents itself as being able to generate identity and to lead to an increase of “himself”, “herself” or “us”. If people manage to follow these in a correct way, then very probably they will be able to gain a pass for entering their own existence. Furthermore, the possibilities the social media offer for bringing forth an identity that is different from the one that actually belongs to us (just think of the profiles offered on such platforms as Facebook and Instagram, to mention only the two most widespread) go hand in hand with this particular dynamic's characteristics of inconsistency and vulnerability, just as with the curious opportunity for generating infinitely new and different versions of it.

By proposing the art of four artists who in various ways show an interest in dealing with this theme, *In the depth of identity* highlights this inexhaustible need to measure ourselves against the topos of identity, by underlining its qualities of changeability, inconsistency, and precariousness.

**Christian Fogarolli** is an Italian artist born in 1983. In 2010 he graduated, with a master's degree in the diagnostics and restoration of antique and modern paintings, from Verona University; he also obtained a degree in the conservation of the cultural heritage from Trento University. His research is characterised by the relationship of art to scientific theories and disciplines, and how these have subconsciously made use of creative means for evolving. Often his work process makes use of historical archival research and utilises such various expressive means as environmental installations, photography, sculpture, and video in order to analyse the dynamics of the perception of images and objects in relationship to subjectivity. The works often probe the links between normality and deviance, the relationships between different species and how these are categorised in a public and private heritage that the artist, through his work, tries to rediscover, analyse or develop. He has exhibited his works in such events as Documenta 13 where he exclusively presented the research project *Lost identities* (2012); the Museo Mart, Rovereto (2013); 54th Venice Biennale (2011); Artissima, Lingotto Turin (2013/15); Galleria Civica, Trento (2014); La Maison Rouge, Paris (2014); Artbrussels (2015/16); de Appel arts centre of Amsterdam (2015); 5th Moscow International Biennale (2016); Futura of Prague (2017). His works are to be found in public and private collections, including the AGI Collection in Verona; the Antoine de Galbert collection; Rotary Club International; the Documenta archives, Kassel; Hollander- Barzilai Collection, Brussels; Collezione Intesa San Paolo, Fondazione Benetton.

**Bepi Ghiotti** (1965, Turin, Italy) is inspired by the presence of a “Punctum” of identity and light, and began by experimenting with photography and painting. Today he explores reality, which he conceives of as a continuous dialogue between action and reaction, on the one hand, and humanity and space on the other; he does so with the use of a great variety of media, including photography, video, sound, paintings, and installations. His work involves extensive research projects that establish a connection between places and narratives. At the heart of his work is the passing of time, made palpable by an intellectual approach that contrasts space/memory and process/identity. His work has been seen in solo and group shows in such prestigious institutions as Art Basel, Isabella Bortolozzi Galerie (2016); Centro d'Arte Contemporanea Castello di Rivara (2010-2016); Eden Eden, Berlin (2016); MAM Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (2015); Triennale di Milano (2014); Biennale Italia-Cina (2015-2016); Nottingham Contemporary (2014).

**Francisco Muñoz Perez** studied plastic and visual arts at the La Esmeralda national school of painting, sculpture and print in Mexico City, 2006-2009, and at the L'École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts “ENSBA”, Lyon, France 2009 - 2010. Among his solo shows, mention should be made of *Complex Antiform* (Oficina de Arte, Mexico City, 2014), *Coatlicue U.F.O. Regresa a Casa* (Casa del Artista, Tlaxcala, Mexico, 2013), *Atentado Internacional* (Centro Cultural Atarazanas, Veracruz, Mexico, 2010). He has also taken part in such important group shows as the Bienal de las miradas, Tijuana 2016, *Capital flight* (Chalton Gallery, London 2016), *Le rhinocéros est mort* (Rotolux, Paris 2016), *El viento y la piedra* (Celda contemporánea, Mexico 2016), *Salad Days* (Galería Casa Lamm, Mexico City 2015), *Argos Panoptes* (Parque Fundidora Monterrey N.L. 2015), *Salón Acme No. 3 2015, Límites* (Galería Fifties Mexico City 2015), *Artificios de disuasión* (Galería de la Escuela Nacional de Pintura, Escultura y Grabado “La Esmeralda” Mexico City 2015), *La Búsqueda del Enemigo Interno* (Oficina de Arte, Mexico City 2015), *XVI Bienal Nacional de Pintura Rufino Tamayo* (Museo Internacional de Arte Contemporáneo Rufino Tamayo, Mexico City 2014), *UnderDogs* (Galería Diagrama, Mexico City 2014), *VI Bienal Nacional de Artes Visuales de Yucatán*, 2014, *Jet Lag / Exchange projects* (Galería de la Esmeralda, Mexico City). He lives and works in Mexico City.

**Tamara Janes** was born in St. Gallen in 1980; she has lived and worked in Berne since 2002.

*“For the time being my aim as an artist and photographer is to comment on this crazy output, on our photographic behaviour, and on the perception of images. In order to do so, I imitate an algorithm that generates digital errors. For flawed moments we liquefy the human mind in order to keep terrible images alive. Usually I like to come into contact with surreal everyday moments and to be caught up in illusions and dreams. I like the suspended state between being asleep and awake, when a photo is taken down from the wall and is transformed into a sculpture. Fakes and simulation influence my perception, a moment when irony is aroused. I am always on the lookout for strange things. And I still love photography”.* (Tamara Janes)

### **Link for downloading the images:**

<http://studiolacitta.it/download-in-the-depth-of-identity/>

### **Exhibition period:**

12 October – 18 November 2017

### **Venue:**

Studio la Città, Lungadige Galtarossa 21, 37133 Verona

### **Opening hours:**

from Tuesday to Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### **For further information and images, please contact:**

Marta Fraccarolo - Press Office – Studio la Città, Verona

ufficiostampa@studiolacitta.it | Ph. +39.045597549