

“MIND TRAVELS”
Mikhael Subotzky and Subodh Gupta

Opening Thursday 22nd November, from 6.30pm to 9.00pm
23rd November 2018 - 17th January 2019

Studio la Città - Verona as guest of SPAZIO 22
Viale Sabotino, 22 - Milan



Subodh Gupta, *Dubai to Mumbai*, 2006, fusion of aluminium and brass, 93x100x85cm, photo-credits Michele Alberto Sereni, courtesy Studio La Città-Verona

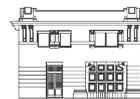
Spazio22 closes its expositive season hosting from 22th November 2018 an exhibition produced in collaboration with H el ene de Franchis, in which a selection of works from the Veronese gallery Studio la Citt a will be displayed.

The exhibition, titled *Mind Travels*, presents the photographs of the South-African artist Mikhael Subotzky, most part of which belong to the series Beaufort West, from the name of the city where the famous maximum security prison stands on the main street. The artist represents without filter the life of the small town, of the prisoners and their families who drag themselves along the streets, in degradation, defeated by prolonged unemployment and alcohol abuse.

Subotzky's works reveal explicit images of realities at times brutal, from which dramatic tensions emerge, as much as the presence of pockets of marginality and vulnerability; but also strenght and the many-sided richness of character.

These photographs are set-up around the core work of this exhibition: the sculpture *Dubai to Mumbai*, produced by the Indian artist Subodh Gupta between 2006 and 2008. The work, a symbol of the dichotomy between the figure of the prisoner and that of the traveller, represents a brass luggage trolley which supports a large packed load and it's a clear reference to the migratory flows that affected and still affect the Indian people.

As Gupta himself declared in an interview released to Damiano Giulli for Flash Art magazine: «Migration, nomadism... The same I travel a lot. This helps me to see the world in a different way. And I attempt to transfer all these stimuli in my works. Practically most people in India has only cinema as a form of entertainment, it is much present in their life: it makes them laugh, it makes them cry... Bollywood has a central role in the popular collective imagination. Cinema has to do with exaggerations, it's finction. This is what I try to reflect in my work. Since it's not always possible to make dreams come true, then sometimes I try to turn them into something solid, something stable, by using metal, steel and bronze.»



Mikhael Subotzky

Mikhael Subotzky was born in 1981 in Capetown, he lives and works in Johannesburg. In the *Die Vier Hoeke Umjiegwana* series (2004) he offers a critical vision of the South-African prison system, denouncing the vicious cycle that connects reality outside and inside the prison and the ineffectiveness of detention as an instrument to combat crime. In *Pont City* (2008), a series produced together with Patrick Waterhouse, the artist investigates the reality of Beaufort West, a degraded area in Johannesburg which is commonly associated to crime and alcoholism. Pushing himself beyond pure documentation, his images show a strong emotional involvement with the subject, raising questions that fall within the collective and individual sphere concurrently.

His work was presented at the International Centre of Photography of New York, at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Shanghai, at the FOAM of Amsterdam, at the MOMA of New York.

Subodh Gupta

Subodh Gupta was born in Khagaul, Bihar (India) in 1964. He lives and works in New Delhi.

Gupta is one of the most prolific Indian artists and has taken part in several international exhibitions. Born in 1964, in Bihar, headquarters of the Buddhist learning, now he lives and works in New Delhi. The objects he uses in his works appear as emblems, as icons that codify with sure simplicity the complex social and economical, as well as cultural, situation of the current India. The artist uses a rich variety of means in order to express and produce large sculptures, paintings, installations, photography, video and performance. Maybe this artist should be defined as sculptor, aware as he is of the physical presence of the object, the aesthetics and the symbolic attributes of the materials, as well as of the relations between space, time and body.