



Press release

**MATTEO RUBBI
VOYAGES DANS LA MER PERDUE**

**OPENING FRIDAY 5 MAY, 6PM
ATTENDED BY THE ARTIST**

**EXHIBITION
FROM 6 MAY 2017 TO 24 SEPTEMBER 2017**

During the Jurassic period 150 to 200 million years ago, the continents and seas were not where they are today. Lorraine was then situated where the Sahara is currently located, in the shallow margins of an ocean called Tethys, near Pangaea, the sole continent of that era. The Lorraine landscape was a warm, shallow sea, dotted with small, biologically rich coral islands.

A lost sea and a raging sun are the two main characters of a story set in the commune of Delme. Matteo Rubbi was interested in the Saulnois region, and wanted to recreate it in its prehistoric version, when it was covered by a hot sea frequented by strange fish and birds. *Voyages dans la mer perdue* [Journeys in the Lost Sea] is an exhibition conceived and developed on-site at the CAC – Synagogue de Delme, through a series of workshops involving the local population. Matteo Rubbi's projects are inspired by the contexts and people he meets during his travels. He assembles them for workshops, lunches or walks in the night. History and mythology are pretexts to meet, share and recreate something common. In Delme and its surroundings, it was with the participation of schools, associations, media libraries and rural households that he developed his project in collaboration with other artists. Participants re-appropriated a local history in the form of a constellation of gestures and perspectives, drawings and sounds. The exhibition gradually became a place of metamorphoses and fictions staging fantastical animals.

Whether the aim is to recount the creation of the universe, understand the theory of everything or the periodic table of elements, Matteo Rubbi's work offers a navigation between the micro and macro, the infinitesimally small and the infinitely large. He likes to bring about impossible meetings, and causes marvellous things to spring out of banality. Playing with temporal interpolation, the past suddenly reappears so that the future comes terribly near. This return to origins is never nostalgic since it connects the contemporary world with other realities, and places things in perspective in order to better contradict certain fixed boundaries: the sun is a hot air balloon, Pluto a grain of sand and Venus an apple seed¹.

The festive, participatory dynamic of the projects takes shape in order to reveal the invisible, the vanished, the distant. By using simple materials and through collective involvement, he summons faraway lands that are sometimes hard to imagine. Yet everything is or was real, and this presumed unreality is what the artist responds to through action. Reinventing, reconstructing, recreating origins offers new visions of our present time.

From the scientific manifesto to the adventure novel, the narrative dimension of Matteo Rubbi's work is the stuff of everyday life, giving everyone the possibility of inventing rules to non-existent games, personifying the planets of our solar system, reconstructing a historic ship and creating cosmic scenery. As one of the characters explains in Voltaire's *Micromégas*: "[Our sun] trends towards red, [...] and we have thirty-nine primary colours. Of all the suns I have approached not one resembles another, just as on your planet each and every face differs from all the others²". With a solar energy, Matteo Rubbi assembles imaginary and impossible spaces in which the viewer is invited to find a place, where utopia and heterotopia find themselves linked together. But if the radiance of the tiny revolutions engendered is not always visible, the journeys he offers show the possibility of collectively producing unique cosmogonies, like a reunited sea and sun, an eternity found again.

Marie Bechetoille

¹ Matteo Rubbi, *Planetario*, 2010 - 2014.

² Voltaire, *Micromégas and Other Short Fictions*, Penguin, 2002, p. 22.

BIOGRAPHY MATTEO RUBBI

Born in 1980. Lives and works in Milan.

Matteo Rubbi received a diploma in the fine arts from the Brera Academy in Milan in 2004. In 2007, he co-founded Cherimus, an artistic association based in Sardinia which established new relations between the contemporary art world and regional initiatives. In 2009, he participated in the «Pavillon du Palais de Tokyo» residency program. In 2012 he was selected for a residency at the ASU Art Museum in Phoenix, United States. He won the eighth edition of the Furla Prize in 2011 for «his ability to interact with viewers and establish new relations between the exhibition space and the public place in a generous spirit of commitment. His work involves various cultural domains from a conceptual and material point of view and displays an acute sense of experimental adventure [...]». In 2015, he was chosen for the Lucas Artists Program Visual Arts Fellowship Award and will take part in the Artists Residency Program at Montalvo Arts Center, California. In 2016, he was selected to create a public artwork in Milan for the first public park dedicated to contemporary art (ArtLine). He is currently working with Cherimus on *Ciak! Kibera*, a joint cultural project between Sulcis (Sardinia) and Kibera (Nairobi, Kenya).

He has presented solo exhibitions at such institutions as the Fondazione Querini Stampalia, Venice; GAMEC, Bergamo; Combine Studios ASU Art Museum, Phoenix. He has participated in group exhibitions at the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; CNAC Le Magasin, Grenoble; PAC, Milan; GAMEC, Bergamo; GAM, Milan; Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro, Milan; MAN, Nuoro; Isola Art Center, Milan, and in several galleries including Gallerie Perrotin, Paris; Annette Gelink, Amsterdam; Marianne Boesky, New York; Limoncello Gallery, London. He has been represented since 2008 by Studio Guenzani Gallery in Milan.

RELATED EVENT

Event on June 10th attended by the artist and related to the fire of Saint-Jean in Delme.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Opening: Friday 5 May at 6pm.
Exhibition from 6 May to 24 September 2017.
From Wednesday to Saturday, 2pm - 6pm
and Sunday 11am - 6pm.
Admission free.
Guided tour every Sunday at 4pm.
Closed 14 July 2017.

PRESS CONTACT

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Visuals available upon request.

CONTACT AND ACCESS

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FROM PARIS (by train 90mins):
TGV Est, get off at Metz or Nancy
FROM METZ (by car, 30mins):
D955, formerly route de Strasbourg
FROM NANCY (by car, 30mins):
N74 towards Château-Salins
then D955 towards Metz

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