

PAOLO CAVINATO - HIDDEN STEPS

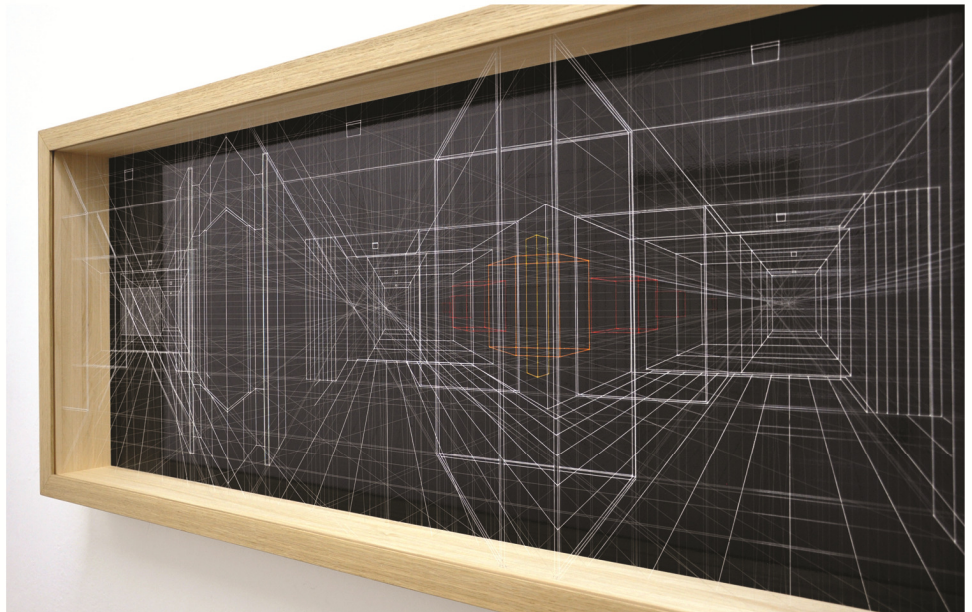
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BY CHRISTIAN CALIANDRO

PROVIDING A UNIQUE OVERVIEW OF THE ARTIST'S LATEST RESEARCH, THIS EXHIBITION PRESENTS A SELECTION OF WORKS FROM SERIES CREATED OVER THE COURSE OF THE LAST YEAR, WHICH IN TURN CONNECT TO FORM CONSTELLATIONS OF THEIR OWN.

CONTINUOUS CITY - A CONTINUATION OF THE INTERIOR PROJECTION SERIES - PRESENTS AN IDEAL CITY FROM THE PAST. FILTERED THROUGH THE WRITINGS OF ITALO CALVINO AND THE FUTURISTIC EXPERIENCE OF CONTEMPORARY URBAN REALITIES (WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO SHANGHAI, WHERE CAVINATO LIVED FOR SIX MONTHS DURING AN ARTISTIC RESIDENCY, FOLLOWED BY NEW YORK AND COPENHAGEN), IT IS A LIMITLESS SPACE WHERE PERSPECTIVE AND VIEWPOINTS MULTIPLY, GENERATING A SENSE OF LOSS, DISORIENTATION AND LOSS OF SELF. FOLLOWING ON FROM THE WORKS OF CONTINUOUS CITY, THE WINGS SERIES COULD BE SEEN AS AN EXTRAPOLATION OF CERTAIN DETAILS, OR EXTENSIONS OF THE PHYSICAL SPACE OF SOME OF THEIR DIRECTIONS AND TRAJECTORIES.

IN CONTRAST, HIDDEN STEPS TRANSLATES THE GRIDS THAT PROVIDE ORIENTATION POINTS IN A TOTAL MIRROR IMAGE OF PERFECT SYMMETRY: TWO STAIRCASES RISE SIDE BY SIDE, BUT NEVER TOUCH. THE STEPS ARE HIDDEN AS THE STAIRS ON WHICH ONE ASCENDS DUPLICATE, OVERLAP, ALTERNATE AND RUN PARALLEL, WITHOUT EVER MEETING. TODAY'S WORLD, AFTER ALL, IS DESIGNED AND IMPLEMENTED IN EXACTLY THIS MANNER: REFLECTIONS, DUPLICATION AND CONCURRENCES - ALL SEMBLANCES THAT EXIST WITHOUT ORIGINALS. THE CONTEMPORARY CITY IS A DISARMING, AMBIGUOUS MIRROR IMAGE: BEHIND ITS GLEAMING, RICH FAÇADE AND SHIMMERING WINGS, DISCOMFORT AND ABERRATION HIDE, FAR REMOVED AND INVISIBLE. AND IT IS THIS INVISIBILITY, THIS SUBMERGENCE, THAT EMERGES IN THE SOFTLY BACKLIT SHADES OF THE PENUMBRA.



CONTINUOUS CITY #3, 2016, ACRYLIC PAINT ON FLUOROCARBON LINE, WOOD FRAME, ALUMINIUM BACKBOARD, PLEXIGLAS, 60X140 CM | 23 3/4" X 55 3/4"



SPATIAL CONDITIONS SERIES, 2016, INSTALLATION VIEW AT THE GALLERY



PROTECTION #2 - 12 TABLES, 2015, VARNISHED ALUMINIUM, H 188X205X185 CM | H 74" X 80 3/4" X 73"



HIDDEN STEPS #3, 2016, LACQUERED WOOD,
H 190x85x76 CM | H 75"x33½"x30"

ARCHITECTURE IS PRESENTED FROM AN ALMOST PHOTOGRAPHIC, CINEMATOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE – IN A KIND OF THREE-DIMENSIONAL TRANSCRIPTION OF THE COMPOSITION.

GUIDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS GROUP OF WORKS IS A DISTINCTIVELY "EVOLUTIONARY" CONCEPT BEHIND THE ARTIST'S RESEARCH, ACCOMPANIED BY THE CONCEPT OF THE SPATIAL THRESHOLD AS A BORDER, A FRONTIER, A MARGIN THAT CONNECTS, DISTINGUISHES AND ANIMATES THE INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR DIMENSIONS, THE INSIDE AND THE OUTSIDE, THE REALMS OF THIS WORLD AND OF THOSE BEYOND.



WING #1 (GOLD), 2016, GOLD PLATED BRASS, H 20,5x61x15 CM | H 8"x24"x6"

AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE LARGE-SCALE INSTALLATION PROTECTION, EACH OF THESE "SITUATIONS" CREATED BY PAOLO CAVINATO SERVES TO "PROTECT" THE INVISIBLE SPHERES OF INTROSPECTION, INTIMACY AND IDENTITY FROM THE AGGRESSION OF THE EXTERNAL WORLD. HIS IS A GEOMETRICAL SURFACE, A PERFECTLY ARRANGED SPACE THAT SIMULTANEOUSLY CONTAINS EVERYTHING AND FROM WHICH EVERYTHING TENDS TO MOVE INTO THE BEYOND IN A CALCULATED, CONTROLLED OVERLOAD; AN URBAN FORM THAT ALLOWS ITS PRECARIOUS, PERMANENT STRUCTURE TO EMERGE – AS IF CRYSTALLIZED. THE SHINY AND REFLECTIVE MATERIAL OF WHICH IT IS MADE, CONVEYS A LACK OF MEMORY, AND ITS PROJECTION IN A DISTURBING FORM OF PRESENT-FUTURE.

TRACING PERSPECTIVAL LINES TO VANISHING POINTS AND DIVERTED, FRAGMENTED REFLECTIONS.

ACTING ALMOST AS A COUNTERBALANCE, THE WALL HUNG OBJECTS OF SPATIAL CONDITIONS CAST ONE'S GAZE TOWARDS THEIR ORIGINS, EXPLORING THE ROOTS OF MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE ART AND THE EXQUISITELY ITALIAN BEGINNINGS OF SPATIAL ORGANIZATION, WHERE ARCHITECTURE AND PAINTING MERGE IN GIOTTO-ESQUE CELLS, INSPIRED BY DETAILS TAKEN FROM ITALIC CULTURE AND FRAGMENTS OF VISUAL MEMORIES. THE WORKS OF ENDLESS HOUSE FOCUS ON THESE SAME ELEMENTS, PLACING THEM ON SPECIAL EASELS AND TRESTLES, BUT IN THIS CASE,