

February 26, 2015 at 7 p.m.

artopia gallery is glad to present

CRISTIAN CHIRONI

Cutter



Cristian Chironi, *Cutter*, 2011, performance, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, photo: Olivier Ouadah

Artopia Gallery is happy to present *Cutter*, an exhibition project by Christian Chironi. The show will be based on the performance the artist will give on Thursday the 26th at 19:00 on the occasion of the show's opening.

Cutter is a device for viewing; the set, composed of a table, a tripod, a videocamera, a stereo system, a collection of books and a cutter, is the place in which cuts out and re-signifies under our eyes a selection of particular naturalistic images taken from the pages of specialized volumes.

Christian Chironi, with the support of a series of acoustic and visual devices as well as olfactory and tactile suggestions, cuts out and reanimates elements of the plant and animal world (in some cases endangered or already extinct species), outlining a narration that is able to play in a novel way with antithetical pairs such as real/imaginary, presence/absence and nature/artifice.

The forms that are cut out lose their two-dimensional character to return to a sensorial complexity that leads to manifold imagery.

The artist redefines the character of the images that appear both familiar and strange at the same time, tapping into a potential for the "unsettling". Flowers, glaciers, details of plants and animals, become part of a story that, instead of linearity, prefers contamination, accumulation, removal or juxtaposition, turning them into performance mechanisms capable of presenting unexpected interpretations.

The figure that is removed, rejected, becomes a void immediately filled and reworked with the underlying representation. The act of performance for Christian Chironi becomes the dimension in which language and diverse materials are made to cohabit, in a poetics of crossbreeding and intersecting that characterizes all of the artist's work.

Completing the show is a selection of works from the series: *Data*, *Folder* and *Cover*.

In *Data* a series of cutouts from the pages of books are reorganized onto transparent sheets to form a constellation of signs. Scrupulously classified, the cutouts are organized in the space by preserving the memory of their layout inside the book and the emptiness in which they float appears as the punctual visual counterpoint to the fullness that generated them.

In the works of the *Folder* series, the book-as-object acquires a sculptural dimension and slippage of meaning by the simple means of folding one or more pages. The artist's gesture abandons the sequentiality of reading in favor of a simultaneity of visual relationships that reveal new horizons of meaning.

Cover is a reflection on the ideas of original and copy, as well as on the nature of images and on the consumption of artistic goods. Chironi looks at a series of famous buildings, the facades of which on a closer look are life-size blow-ups of a part or of the entire building.

The photographs do not reproduce anything but the reproduction itself in a perceptual short circuit that explores the nature of representation.

If in the performance *Cutter* loss is the instrument with which to return to a complex and polysemous reality, in *Cover* it is reality that is flattened out until becoming frame and image.

The show is accompanied by critical text by Emmanuel Lambion which is part of the ongoing catalogue of the gallery.

Artopia Gallery is furthermore happy to signal Christian Chironi's project entitled *My House Is a Le Corbusier* that opened on 7 January in Bologna at the Padiglione Esprit Nouveau. The artist will spend a period of residence in a number of habitations designed in the world of Le Corbusier (potentially 30 inhabitable works in 12 different countries), giving life to an idea of a performance extended over time, house