

# EVERARD READ

LONDON

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**ALESSANDRO PAPETTI AND ARON DEMETZ**

**16 November – 15 December 2018**

Everard Read London presents an exhibition of new paintings by **Alessandro Papetti** and sculpture by **Aron Demetz**, marking the first time the artists have presented a collaborative show together.

The exhibition comprises 26 oil paintings by Papetti and 10 sculptures by Demetz in wood, charred wood and bronze. Many of the works were made or conceived while working alongside each other in Demetz's studio in Val Gardena, northern Italy.

Papetti and Demetz share a long-standing fascination with the human figure and indeed the nexus of this collaborative project is the infinitely complex and ambivalent manifestations of humanity.

Papetti's nudes have a fleshy presence and his palette calls to mind skin and viscera, but these paintings evoke another, preternatural presence, levitating in his atmospheric interiors, the representation of thoughts, of memory, but above all of dreams that take shape to become a pictorial form. The Giacometti biographer, James Lord, described this "ghostly perspective and supernatural sense of space" in a critical essay on the artist's work in 1995.

Papetti's portraits are intensely human. The inhabited faces have borne witness to the passing of time and are the embodiment of the ephemeral nature of life. Even in Papetti's interiors in which human figures are absent, there is nonetheless a sense of their having passed through; the spirit of their recent presence.

Demetz's figurative sculptures in raw wood also exude a strong sense of the organic and terrestrial, while his burnt wood figures suggest decomposition and death, but also transcendence. The artist deliberately exploits wood as a material; its textures and ability for transformation.

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The stark contrast between the smooth, carved figures and the highly textured, distressed wood surfaces; between the pale limewood and blackened wood cast in bronze, serves as a visual metaphor for the ambivalent relationship between humanity and nature - our coexistence with the natural world and our alienation from it. By virtue of Demetz' craftsmanship, his figures and the material from which they are hewn, become an inseparable whole.

This is Papetti's second solo exhibition with Everard Read London and his fifth solo exhibition with the Everard Read group. While Demetz has previously participated in group exhibitions at Everard Read London, this is his first solo exhibition with the gallery.

### **About Alessandro Papetti**

Born in 1958 in Milan, where he continues to live and work today, Alessandro Papetti is one of Italy's foremost contemporary painters. He has exhibited widely for 30 years, notably at the Venice Biennale in 2003 and 2011, at major museums in Milan, Paris, Moscow and Tokyo and at galleries around the world.

A largely self-taught artist, **Alessandro Papetti's** influences include Tintoretto, Alberto Giacometti and Francis Bacon. His most recognizable works are sweeping, cinematic paintings of industrial archaeology, urban landscapes, portraits and studies of nudes, frequently painted from a high-angle perspective.

Milan has served as an important backdrop for his work as Papetti notes: *"I tend to use monochromatic colours. The light in my cities is fairly northern because I was born in Milan and that definitely had an influence. These are the colours from my city, from the air that I've breathed."*

In 1995 Papetti met the writer and Giacometti biographer, James Lord, who wrote a significant critical essay on his work. Lord described Papetti's work as "profoundly Italian" and referenced the influence of Tintoretto: "The frenetic movement, ghostly perspective and supernatural sense of space so characteristic of the Venetian master have clearly left their mark on the young Milanese painter without, however, overpowering his personal and original view. He has, in short, mastered the configuration of his inner world, and achievement which is essential to the ontological

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transfiguration that endows with talismanic permanence the transitory detritus of our perishable selves and our world.”

## **About Aron Demetz**

Aron Demetz was born and raised in Gröden/Val Gardena, a valley in northern Italy, renowned for its woodcarving of religious sculptures since the 17th century.

Demetz achieved international prominence with exhibitions at the Venice Biennale in 2009, PAC in Milan, MACRO in Rome and the Arp Museum in Rolandseck, Germany. He is considered one of the most innovative of the current generation of woodcarving artists who hail from South Tyrol, constantly pushing beyond the boundaries of traditional craft.

The process of working with wood is the foundation of Demetz's oeuvre and aesthetic. Using this ancient woodcarving technique, Demetz explores the possibilities and limitations of wood as a material and exploits its textures and ability for transformation by deploying a range of innovative techniques including controlled burning, lacerating the wood or applying layers of natural resin. Indeed. His work explores the complex and ambivalent nature of humanity's relationship with the natural world as well as themes of injury and healing; of metamorphosis.

Demetz explains further, *“For me, the act of burning is so important; for what remains is Truth, clear and unmistakably raw. It's a way of not only being clear and unequivocal, but a means by which one reverts back to zero.”*

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Alessandro Papetti and Aron Demetz, 2018

## About Everard Read London

Everard Read was established in South Africa in 1913, making it Africa's oldest commercial gallery. Everard Read London opened in Chelsea in March 2016 and presents modern and contemporary art from southern Africa. The gallery also shows contemporary work by exceptional artists from around the world. Everard Read has galleries in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Franschhoek and London.

## Alessandro Papetti

### Selected Solo Exhibitions

2018

Alessandro Papetti and Aron Demetz, Everard Read London, London, UK

2017

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Landscape, MARCA Museum of Catanzaro Arts

2016

I live here, Everard Read /CIRCA Gallery, London, UK

Fabbrica, Quadreria Bovara Reina, Malgrate, Italy

2015

I live here, Central Institute for Graphics, Palazzo Poli, Rome, Italy

2014

Palazzo Penna-Center of Contemporary Culture, Perugia, Italy

2013

Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Marie Ier arrondissement, Paris, France

Halle Am Wasser, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, Germany

2012

Moscow, The Utopia Factories, Museum Of Architecture - MUAR, Moscow, Russia

Autobiography Of Painting, Galleria Contini, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy

2011

The Cycle Of Time, Auditorium Parco Della Musica, Rome, Italy

2010

Dynamic Spaces, Italian Institute Of Culture, Tokyo, Japan

Motion Investigation, Buschlen Mowatt Galleries, Vancouver, Canada

Eyes And Moons, Villa Manin, Passariano Di Codroipo, Udine, Italy

2009

The cycle of time, Palazzo Reale, Milan, Italy

Passages, First Gallery, Rome, Italy

2007

Alessandro Papetti. Ile Seguin, Musées des Années 30, Boulogne-Billancourt, Paris, France

Galerie Alain Blondel, Paris, France

Artistic and Cultural Club, Ortisei Bolzano, Italy

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2006

Buschlen Mowatt Galleries, Vancouver, Canada

2005

Buschlen Mowatt Galleries, Palm Desert, California, USA

Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

The discomfort of painting, Mudima Foundation, Milan, Italy

The belly of the city, Galleria Forni, Milan, Italy

2004

Galerie Alain Blondel, Paris, France

Buschlen Mowatt Galleries, Vancouver, Canada

2003

Finds, Galleria dello Scudo, Verona, Italy

Blue, Buschlen Mowatt Galleries, Palm Desert, California and Vancouver, Canada

Forni Gallery, Bologna, Italy

2002

Galerie Alain Blondel, Paris, France

The Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Forni Gallery, Milan, Italy

2001

Wasser, Civic Museum of Chiusa, Bolzano, Italy

De Twee Pauwen Gallery, Den Haag, The Netherlands

2000

Buschlen Mowatt Galleries, Vancouver, Canada

Forni Gallery, Bologna, Italy

1999

Water, Galleria Forni, Milan, Italy

1998

Buschlen Mowatt Galleries, Vancouver, Canada

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Galerie Alain Blondel, Paris, France

1997

Municipal Gallery of Art, Cesena, Italy

1996

Davico Gallery, Turin, Italy

Civic Museums of Villa Manzoni, Lecco, Italy

Forni Gallery, Bologna, Italy

1995

Galerie Alain Blondel, Paris, France

1993

Zedes Art Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

1992

Galleria Rotta, Genoa, Italy

Galleria del Cavallino, Venice, Italy

Bellinzona Gallery, Lecco, Italy

1990

Bocconi University, Milan, Italy

1989

Galleria Rotta, Genoa, Italy

1986

Galleria Busi, Chiavari, Genoa, Italy

San Michele Gallery, Brescia, Italy

1985

Schubert Gallery, Milan, Italy

Corrente Foundation, Milan, Italy

1984

San Michele Gallery, Brescia, Italy

1983



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Bayerische Vereinsbank, Milan

## **Aron Demetz**

### **Selected Solo Exhibitions**

2018

Alessandro Papetti and Aron Demetz, Everard Read London, London, UK

2017

Memoridermata, Galleria Doris Ghetta, Ortisei, Italy

2016

L'Eco della cenere, Vestibulo de Museo de Arte e Historia de Guanajuato, Leon, Mexico

Museo Rivara, Rivara, Italy

Red Desert, the place where activism becomes attitude, Gallery Artveras, Geneva,  
Switzerland

La Torre di Babele, Ex Officine Lucchesi, Prato, Italy

Il peso di un pensiero, la forza di un'opera, Emma, Certosa di San Giacomo, Capri, Italy

AUTARK, with Robert Pan, Galleria Doris Ghetta, Italy

Asian Museum of Modern Art, Taichung, Taiwan

Malström, Oxholm Gallery, Kopenhagen, Denmark

2015

AraCor | I eco della cenere, Terreno Baldio Arte Mexico City, Mexico

Memoridermata, Art Center Hugo Voeten, Herentals, Belgium

2014

I AM, Arp Museum, Rolandseck, Germany

2011

Keimzeit, Barbara Paci Galleria d'Arte, Pietrasanta, Italy

2012

Aron Demetz: Il Radicante, MACRO Mattatoio Pelanda, Rome, Italy

2011



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La Natura Umana, Galerie Cast Your Art, Wien, Austria

Gallery Goethe, Bolzano, Italy

Solide Fragilità, Villa Bottini, Lucca, Italy

2010

Hydriditat, Galleria Artdepot, Innsbruck, Austria

2008

Aron Demetz, PAC Milan, Italy

2004

Aron Demetz, ex Chiesa di San Filippo Neri, Rome, Italy