

GALERIE ANDREA CARATSCH

PRESSRELEASE

DE CHIRICO/WARHOL – SELF PORTRAITS

JOHN ARMLEDER PANTAN

Inauguration of Galerie Andrea Caratsch in St. Moritz

Galerie Andrea Caratsch inaugurates its new premises on December 3rd, 2013 with *De Chirico/Warhol – Self-Portraits* at Via Serlas 12 in St. Moritz where 25 self-portraits – Warhol's iconic self-representations and de Chirico's baroque portrait paintings – will be exhibited in dialogue.

Andy Warhol revolutionised the genre of self-portraiture in the 20th century with iconic self-portrayals, following the steps of de Chirico who already in the 1940's anticipated postmodern citation and the collage techniques of Pop Art. It is not the personal side of the artist that is revealed in these paintings, rather a love for orchestration and stylisation which endured throughout their lives. Both artists love role-playing, with one masquerading in baroque costumes, and the other donning himself with *fright-wigs* or dark sun glasses. Their experimentation with representation and the topic of disguise was a new, compulsive need that resulted in the production of hundreds of self-portraits. They are the only artists in the history of art having outdone Rembrandt in the number of created self-portraits and thereby associated obsession.

Stylistically different, these paintings are based on a similar method in dealing with presentation and reproduction; with the help of portrait photographs and references to paintings of Old Masters, de Chirico slips into Baroque costumes and adorns himself with borrowed stage props. Every *Autoritratto in costume* is thus imbued with multiple artistic citations. Costumes and postures from famous paintings by Jacques-Louis David, Fra Galgario or Böcklin are coupled with a personal portrait photograph of the artist. De Chirico finally arranges this potpourri of models and translates it back into a classical-looking painting.

Warhol's trademark is *screen printing*. He uses photobooth strips, photographs and polaroids of himself as models for countless self-portraits since 1963. The repeated printing of a photographic motif on the same canvas has the effect of alienating that same photograph, a technique often used by Warhol.

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Multiple repetition visualizes that perfect replication as such is inexistent and that every repeated motif with its different colours is unique. Warhol and de Chirico are both very interested in seriality, each presenting their self-portraits in series as fictional narratives. An ironic overlapping of subject and authorship is idiosyncratic to these self-portraits. By obsessive application of reproductions, they transferred the classicist and romantic idea of the creative genius into the 20th century – all in line with Roland Barthes' *The Death of the Author*.

The second exhibition *Pantan* (Rhaeto-Romanic: "Puddle") presents fifteen large-sized *Puddle Paintings* by John Armleder through April 2014. Glitter, toys, small decorative articles of all sorts and pots filled with paint, varnish and solvent are spilled over the canvas in a mixture of chance and control. Armleder explores the accidental outcome in a graphical way, which in turn is emblematic of his complete oeuvre. As is his custom, the artist hopes to conjure up this 'vast maelstrom' in which value systems are swept away and hierarchical criteria collapse while the mainstays of the 'single thought' crumble. These shimmering paintings are named after the surrounding Engadin lakes and were created in the gallery just before renovation started in the summer of 2012. They are thus part of the gallery's history.

The galleries in St. Moritz are open in season from Monday to Saturday from 2 PM to 7 PM.

Galerie Andrea Caratsch

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Opening Hours: Monday – Saturday 14.00 – 19.00, and by appointment

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