

ENZO CUCCHI

curated by **Eleonora Farina**
17 October 2019 - 19 January 2020

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Rome, 16 October, 2019. **Enzo Cucchi** (Morro d'Alba, 1949), one of the most influential figures on the contemporary art scene, presents a new project designed specifically for the spaces of the Gian Ferrari Gallery at **MAXXI**, the **National Museum of 21st Century Arts** (from 17 October to 19 January 2020).

An extraordinary inventor of powerful and enigmatic images, the artist's research incorporates dreamlike visions, mystical and religious popular culture of his homeland and art history (*Cubist Animal of the 1900s*), with explicit references to classical literature and mythology, which translates into an aesthetic that ranges between time and history, thus synthesising individual myths and collective imagination.

Enzo Cucchi proposes a single work on display: a radical gesture in his rarefaction of a single object, of modest dimensions in relation to the architecture of space designed by Zaha Hadid, exhibited on a base that itself becomes an integral part of the work. An even more radical gesture is that of the marble sculpture, because it is underlined by other interventions in the gallery that serve as thresholds, notes, corollary *Insignia [Signs]* and which thus reaffirm the uniqueness and centrality of the work.

A putto, to whose big toe a scorpion appears to cling, hands to eyes in the gesture of the telescope for focusing the vision, reinterprets in an extremely contemporary image the classic iconography of the naked child, with references that recur in the history of art and that go from the Roman statuary to the great Baroque frescoes. In the representation of the putto conceived by the artist, art and myth, science and astrology merge: its cheerful game is marred by the threat of the poisonous animal which, according to Greek mythology, had killed the hunter Orion because of his arrogance, where the scorpion is symbol of the unknown and even of death, an allegory of mystery and the occult.

With this work/gesture, the fiercely modern Enzo Cucchi finally returns to talk about Rome, his adopted city, in whose cradle he has always nourished himself and in which he captures the sense of personal and civil resistance to the unstoppable progress of a world based on speed and emergency and of a culture of technology and science that increasingly drains the spaces of desire and freedom of thought every day.

The project by Enzo Cucchi is part of the programming of focus shows which MAXXI is dedicating to artists whose works are present in the museum collection. From October 2019, the collection is on display in a new presentation with works by Stefano Arienti, Gregorio Botta, Paolo Canevari, Joan Jonas, Luca Nostri, Eduardo Stupia and one of the first projects by Cristiano Toraldo di Francia, whom MAXXI would like to remember just a few months after his death for his intellectual and multi-disciplinary contribution.

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MAXXI National Museum of 21st Century Arts

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Galleria Gian Ferrari

Opening hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday 11.00 AM - 7.00 PM; Tuesday, Friday, Saturday 11.00 AM-8.00 PM; Closed on Mondays.

The ticket office is open until 1 hour before museum closing.

Tickets: € 12 full price; € 9 reduced; € 5 last hour (wed. thurs. sun. from 5.00 PM; tue. fri. sat. from 6.00 PM)