



## **GYPSOTECA**

**Agostino Iacurci**

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Opening: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 at 7pm

M77 Gallery presents *Gypsoteca*, a series of new works by **Agostino Iacurci** (Foggia, 1986).

A painter, illustrator, engraver, muralist and set designer, Agostino Iacurci has created a *site-specific* exhibition project for the spaces at the M77 Gallery. This exhibition is presented as the arrival point of almost two years of research, which has been based around the theme of colour as it was conceived and used in the practice of ancient statuary.

The starting point for Iacurci's research is Greco-Roman sculpture, as seen in the practice that originally merged the specific materials of sculpture - marble, bronze, wood or terracotta - with colour, thus creating a single form. Over time, artificial antique taste has in some ways altered this, if not actually erased it, therefore giving rise to an idea of classicism made of aseptic white marble or monochromatic patinas. Iacurci is fascinated by the reconstructions of the original Greek and Roman works, with their vivid colours and violent, almost psychedelic patterns. With *Gypsoteca*, the artist wanted to create a contemporary personal catalogue of the old, far from the neoclassicism and monochromy enhanced and codified in the eighteenth century by the visionary Johann Joachim Winckelmann.

*Gypsoteca*, a title that explicitly evokes the place where the gypsum models of statues, busts, heads, embossed details and ancient friezes are preserved, is therefore a journey into a parallel universe. It is rich in images and visual inventions, animated by colour.

The series of works on show captures the echo of remote yet universal artistic languages. Colour stands out as an archaic symbol and, at the same time, signifies a contemporary reality populated by virtual phantoms to coexist with. The domestic Lares, the ancient Heroes and the Olympian Deities - in bright colours - have found in the paintings of Iacurci the sacred places dedicated to them. And the artist offers them gifts and asks for protection.

The exhibition will remain open to the public from Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May until Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and will be accompanied by a volume with a text by Michele Bonuomo.

### **Press contacts**

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## BIOGRAPHY

Agostino Iacurci (1986) is an Italian artist based in Berlin.

His practice embraces a wide range of techniques and materials, including painting, mural, sculpture, drawing and engraving. The works of Agostino Iacurci are characterised by synthetic shapes and bright colours, as the artist uses a simple language to guide different layers of interpretation.

His works have been presented in numerous exhibitions, festivals and projects in Europe, the United States, Brazil, Russia, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Australia, Korea, Japan and Taiwan. The most recent exhibitions include the 2017 UrbanArt Biennale, Völklinger Hütte, European Centre for Art and Industrial Culture, Germany; Cross the streets, Macro Museum Rome, 2017; FADA, House of Madness, The Watermill Center, New York, 2016; 16<sup>th</sup> Premio Cairo, Palazzo della Permanente, Milan, 2016; Source Codes, Palazzo Platamone, Catania, 2015; From Street to Art, Italian Cultural Institute of New York, NY, 2014; Artmosphere, UrbanArt Biennale, Artplay, Moscow.

His works have become monuments for various public and private institutions such as Yakutsk Biennale, Yakutia, 2017; BBDO headquarters, Southbank, London, 2017; Distrito Tec University, Monterrey, 2016; Govind Puri Metro Station, New Delhi, 2016; Mario Penna Institute, Belo Horizonte, Brazil; Puerto Rico's Stadium, Puerto Rico, 2015; "Le Tour 13", Paris 2014; Besançon University Campus, Besançon, 2013; "Fubon Art Foundation", Taipei, 2012; Saba School in Western Saharawi, 2011.