

FLORIAN PUGNAIRE / DAVID RAFFINI
Chjami rispondi

23. 01. 13 – 30. 03. 2013
Opening Saturday February 23rd, 2013
From 4pm to 9pm

« Chjami è rispondi » is a Corsican choral tradition, a verbal and poetic joust based on improvisation. Each singer confronts the others on selected themes and melodies, respecting strict prosodic rules. A polyphonic harmony arises from the potential violence of the confrontation, just like in the work of Florian Pugnaire and David Raffini: even though they have been collaborating since 2006, they continue to develop their own individual artistic vocabulary.

This modus operandi allows Florian Pugnaire and David Raffini to pursue their research on the exploration of matter, which is subject to all kind of distortion and unexpected contextualisation, as in the last video *Énergie sombre* (2012), co-signed by the two artists. The 15-minutes video concentrates all the leitmotifs dear to this Nice-based duo: no man's land, speed, motors, mechanisms worth of an infernal machine, metal clatter, destroyed vehicles, cracked clay. The exhibition's intent is to extend the filmed action/performance in a full-scale experience and to investigate its components.

Two works on the walls respond to each other, like a materialization of sonic waves hitting the steel. David Raffini bashes the stainless steel sheet in with a single gesture, while Florian Pugnaire downsizes it by tightening its metallic frame.

Iconoclastic at first glance, these destructive gestures are nonetheless markers that generate new abstract forms; the light is modulated by the surface, playing with the viewer as he changes his position.

Such forms are reminiscent of the synesthetic experiments of the Swedish painter, sculptor and sound artist Lars Fredrikson (1926 – 1997) who explores, from the late 1960s, the relationship between the immaterial space of sculpture and sound. With his research close to synaesthesia, Lars Fredrikson aims to make the viewer aware of his body, while for Pugnaire and Raffini the direct sensory experience of the work is deeply involved with the relationship they establish with the viewer - our preconceptions are jostled, our thought patterns questioned through reversals of situations and constant mutations of materials.

By orchestrating a revelation of the image Florian Pugnaire and David Raffini fit into a temporality where the works are both the result and the constituents. The painting on a free canvas grafted onto a mast proposed by David Raffini counterbalances the fixed form of the lead flag by Florian Pugnaire. Echoing each other, Pugnaire and Raffini play spatio-temporal back-and-forths, generating new steps in their collaboration.