

Press Release

“DISAPPEAR” an exhibition by Ange Leccia

Private view: Thursday 25 May 2018, 6.30 pm - 9pm

Exhibition: 26 May - 13 July 2018

Senesi Contemporanea

25 Dover Street W1S 4LX - Mayfair- London

The gallery

Senesi Contemporanea (SC) is dedicated to facilitating forms of artistic research that make innovative use of traditional materials or objects to redefine their cultural merit in a contemporary sense. The exhibition space is conceptualised in a way that relates the research of emerging artists with established artists, who have already gained international recognition. With its exhibition program the gallery intends to foster artist's research, which focuses on what is always innovative in the field of the arts. Alternating between established and emerging artists within the art world, SC aims to actively support projects that act as catalysers for a constant growth in new ways of seeing.

The show

Senesi Contemporanea is pleased to present *Disappear*, an exhibition showcasing recent works by Ange Leccia, marking the artist's first solo show in London.

Recognised as a pioneering figure of French Video Art, the artist has in conversation with the gallery, created a body of commissioned work that follows the two past exhibitions with Mireille Kassar and Michele Ciacciofera. *Disappear* marks the end of a trilogy of exhibitions, exploring the Mediterranean area as land of culture, conflict and memory.

On view are two videos and four printed stills of the moving image on aluminium. Both films share a combining and layering of sequences, accompanied by sound that shifts from calm to intense.

The viewer is not able to see without being watched. Focussing on the young generation of woman, *Disappear ('21)* takes you on a visual journey from Palmyra's archaeological site, visited and taped by the artist in 2001, now after years of war in Syria and fatal destruction by ISIS, almost diminished, to the Twin Towers, before 9/11. The sequences are layered with moving images of portraits depicting young woman, who are seen in a dreamy suspense, looking back at the viewer.

Playing on the contrast between adolescent woman and scenes relating to war and destruction, Leccia illustrates a strange disparity. When travelling to Syria and Egypt, he was captivated by the many young people living in war zones. They live in transition from childhood to adulthood, their innocence compromised by conflicts so resolute, they become part of a person's essence.

For Leccia, the state of being an adolescent teenager is similar to the nature of an artist. Being free from prejudice thought, in a tabula rasa state of mind, is essential for the artists practice. The adversity between manifestation and destruction becomes apparent through the artists gaze on the young generation deeply affected by the conflicts in the middle east. In *Wardream* ('18) the disparity is diminished when a narrative is added to the sequences. The sequences seem to overlap, showing the young woman appearing in both films, being shot.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue published by Senesi Contemporanea, featuring an essay by the curator Fabien Danesi.

Ange Leccia (born 19 April 1952) is a contemporary French painter, photographer and film-maker. He works in Paris primarily with photography and video. Leccia was born in Minerbio, Barrettali commune, in Corsica, and studied the fine arts. Initially he was engaged in both painting and photography, but as time passed he devoted himself more to photography and video as his chosen media. Leccia is a lecturer at the École nationale supérieure d'arts de Cergy-Pontoise (ENSAPC). He also directs research for young artists at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris.

Leccia's work can be found in prominent collections throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia, including the L'amour Louvre' Louvre Lens; Fond National d'Art Contemporain; Centre Georges Pompidou; Le Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; France Fondation Cartier; Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations; Fondation NSM Vie; Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Strasbourg; Contemporain de la Ville de Lyon; Musée d'Art Contemporain de la Ville de Marseille; FRAC Rhône Alpes; FRAC Corse; FRAC Pays de la Loire; FRAC Midi-Pyrennes; FRAC Alsace; FRAC Nord Pas-de-Calais; Guggenheim New York; Seibu Museum Tokyo, Japan; Musée de la Ville d'Hiroshima, Japan; KIASMA, Musée d'Art Contemporain Helshinki; MUKA Anvers, Belgium; Musée de Nuremberg, Germany; The Progressive Collection, Cleveland;

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