

EXHIBITION- 18 December 2013- 15 February 2014

Opening Reception- Tuesday 17 December 19.00-22.00

The Wilmotte Foundation in Venice, Fondaco degli Angeli, has the pleasure to present:

**“ISOLA NOVA”,
photographs from Philippe Calandre**

“A map of the world that does not include Utopia is not worth even glancing at, ...” Oscar Wilde

Following the exhibition “Fiction Factories” in 2012 at the Gallery Esther Woerdehoff in which Philippe Calandre developed the fictional factories, Jean-Michel Wilmotte proposed the artist to create a new series for his Venetian gallery.

After many trips to Venice, Philippe Calandre imagined a series of new islands in Venice inhabited by large industrial structures mixed with fragments of traditional Venetian architecture.

These new ghostly-like “building-islands”, appear to be floating among a classic iconography and somewhat disturbing chimeric constructions that multiply themselves. These photographic compositions between documentation and collage are exhibited at the Fondaco degli Angeli in Venice from 17 December 2013 to 15 February 2014.

This oneiric Venice is the result of a skilful interweaving of images drawn from the historic city of Venice, the old town, and the Venice of the “edge of the lagoon”, the peripheral Venice and the industrial area of Porto Marghera.

We recognize the most famous and sumptuous architectures of the past, and in particular those linked to the industrial past of Venice, especially the island of La Giudecca, during the second half of the XIX and XX centuries.

His visions refer to us to certain precedents in architecture, for example Aldo Rossi and his design for the theatre La Fenice and also Bernard Huet and his unforgettable magazine cover of a collage of Venice, for *L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui* in 1980.

The utopic Venice of Philippe Calandre makes us travel among the islands in the Lagoon, among the colours of an imaginary Venice, a reconstruction that denies the progressive destruction of forms in the water.

His images are an enigma, a sense of timelessness swaying between irrationality and form.

Enigmatic Venice, and according to the words of Maria Zambrano (cf. “Dire Luce”, a cura di Carmen del Valle, ed Bur Rizzoli 2013)- *“little matters what happens in Venice, whatever confusion, abnormality or talent, everything enters immediately the Order, all is assimilated, there is no before and after, there is an “Always” that collects everything”*.

This is what we perceive and find in the works of Calandre, in which light and colour is given to the city, following the line of both, the great pictorial tradition of the Venetian painting schools and those “vedute”, picturesque views on coloured glass for passing tourists.

To summarize, the collection of Philippe Calandre is a photographic and pictorial work of art that opens up to the future of Venice and its surroundings.

The artist

Philippe Calandre was born in Avignon (France) in 1964. After sailing for years as a skipper, he finds refuge in a “port-passion” for photography, which became his artistic metier. He is particularly interested in architectural photography punctuated by portraits within the scene. In all series, the reality is the basis from which he creates his own worlds. Each one of the photographic projects undertaken by Philippe Calandre is inscribed within the controversy of the confusion between reality and imaginary.

The Gas stations or “Silos” which were presented at the FIAC in 2001 by Anne Barrault, the Parisian gallery with which the artist collaborated from 1999 to 2007 became the manifesto of his works. In “Insomnia” (2006), which depicts strange nocturnal apparitions, Calandre extracts elements from the world of film fantasy like “pur et inquietant”. Since 1996, his works have been exhibited in galleries, museums and contemporary art events in France and abroad (Greece, Argentina, the Netherlands, New York and Taiwan).

Past Exhibitions

- 2012 **FICTION FACTORIES**, photographs Galerie Esther Woerdehoff
- 2007 **ARCHI PARANO**, photographs & film- Art Center Kao-Un University – Taiwan
- 2007 **HOLIDAY INN BEYROUTH**, photographs & vidéo - Médiathèque de Biarritz – France
- 2007 **SIDE OF THE ROAD 2**, photographs - Kio-A-Thau Art Center – Taiwan
- 2006 **TAIWAN'S FACTORIES**, photographs - Art district, pier2 - Kaoshiung – Taiwan
- 2006 **SUGAR FIELD FACTORY**, photographs - Kio-A-Thau Residency Ciaotou - Taiwan
- 2005 **SIDE OF THE ROAD 1**, photographs - Art district, pier2 - Kaoshiung – Taiwan
- 2001 **CAFARDS 2000**, photographs - Galerie Anne Barrault - Paris – France
- 2000 **AD VITAM AETERNAM**, photographs & film - Galerie Anne Barrault - Paris - France

The Wilmotte Foundation

In 2005, as a response to his concern about the preservation of architectural heritage, Jean-Michel Wilmotte creates the Foundation Wilmotte in order to create awareness and provide education to young architects on the problems of conservation and restoration of buildings.

The objective is to establish a framework for the elegant merging of the patrimony and the contemporary work through “Contemporary Grafting”.

The Foundation has the purpose to play the role of a ferryman, to discover and encourage young talents, to help the promotion of the architectural culture and building bridges between architecture, heritage and contemporary art.

Fondaco Degli Angeli

The Wilmotte Foundation was established in the heart of the authentic Venice, in Cannaregio, opening its own exhibition space: the Fondaco degli Angeli, in August 2013. Typically Venetian, this space has two accesses: one by land and one by water from Sacca della Misericordia, north of the lagoon.

The main entrance is through the arch of Santa Maria della Misericordia across the garden.

After two and a half years of restoration work, the site has regained its past splendour but through an interpretation of the naval workshop, the carpentry and the vocational schools. This space offers to the Foundation Wilmotte a world-class exhibition space, which is unique in Venice.

Practical information

Exhibition from 18 December 2013 until 15 February 2014

Fondaco degli Angeli - Fondamenta dell'Abbazia - Cannaregio 3560

Vaporetto : Ca'D'oro ou Madonna dell'Orto

Opening hours from 10h to 18h (closed on Mondays and bank holidays)

Night Openings on appointment.

www.fondation-entreprise-wilmotte.fr

Fondation Wilmotte - 10 rue Sainte-Anastase - 75003 - Paris / T: +33 01 53 02 22 22

fondation@wilmotte.fr / www.fondation-entreprise-wilmotte.fr

Fondaco degli Angeli - Gallery - Cannaregio 3560 - 30121 Venezia - Italia / T: +39 041 476 11 60

fondaco@wilmotte.fr