

PRESS RELEASE

SERSE

HERE EVERYTHING IS OPEN.
NOTHING IS NEAR, NOTHING IS FAR

OPENING THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30TH, 2017 / 5PM – JANUARY 22ND, 2018

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

UNIVERSAL ART BUILDING. CALLE SAN RAFAEL ENTRE ZULUETA Y MONSERRATE, HABANA VIEJA



On the occasion of the Italian Culture Week, Havana's National Museum of Fine Arts and Galleria Continua are pleased to present Serse's first solo show in Cuba.

The exhibition *"Here everything is open. Nothing is near, nothing is far"* comprises a series of works produced over the past fifteen years and dedicated to landscape, a favorite amongst the Italian artist's themes. The exhibition's title alludes to experiencing landscape within landscape itself thus canceling the idea of perspective. This approach to the natural space originated from the encounter with ancient Chinese painting, an ongoing study field for Serse.

Over the past twenty years, having dismissed color, he consistently researches graphite drawing. From Serse's graphite sparks one of the most intense reinterpretations of the landscape-theme in contemporary art: seas, aquatic surfaces, plants reflections on the water, cloudy skies, high mountains, snowy forests and natural spaces lacking human figures and transformed by light and shadow.

For Serse, as a medium, graphite "allows both making the tautological gesture of drawing, and realizing a work that does not lie about its nature of pure drawing". This is why his drawings lack of thickness, a frame and, often, of a protective glass. In the artist's words: "Only the drawing is shown". The contemporaneity in his practice stands precisely in that he rejects the specificity of the drawing, that is, the illusion of the three dimensions, and its mimetic potential. "I live the paradox: I draw an extremely detailed landscape, spread the limits of its descriptiveness and simultaneously confirm the impossibility of its representation, its incoherent denial". In fact, Serse's landscapes do not reference the outside world. Rather, they mention the inner immensity so dear to the romantic poets. Ideally, they are landscapes of the soul, drawn with your eyes closed.

The artist defines himself as a painter of ancient contemporaneity. His research proceeds from Leon Battista Alberti's Open Window. Other influences to him are consequential of Duchamp's black window glasses' (*Fresh Widow*, 1920) iconoclastic experience and of the definitive curtain-shut postulated by Malevic in his *Black Square* (1915). Thus Serse stated: "Currently, the reconstruction of the representative state in the Open Window, the square, as understood from Alberti on, in which the world was meticulously transcribed in all its plurality, undergoes inexorably the gaze of the other". According to Serse, his work's qualities, transparency, brightness, and perfect visibility, are drawn from the experience of Giulio Paolini's work: "His *Young man looking at Lorenzo Lotto* was deeply revealing to me and multiplied my gaze's possibilities on the world".

Serse was born in 1952 in San Polo di Piave. He lives and works in Trieste. The artist has produced over the years extraordinary series of images that have been included in the book "Drawing", edited by Phaidon Press. These also owed him the participation in significant national and international exhibitions such as: Centre Pompidou, Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris, France (2013); Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Rimini, Italy (2012); Musée des Beaux-Arts et d'archéologie de Besançon, Besançon, France (2010); Palazzo Reale, Milan, Italy (2007); De Garage Cultuurcentrum, Mechelen, Belgium (2006); III Biennial of Valencia, Valencia, Spain (2005); S.M.A.K., Gent, Belgium (2004); Rufino Tamayo Museum, Mexico City, Mexico (2002); Center for Contemporary Art Luigi Pecci, Prato (2002); Kunstverein Augsburg, Augsburg, Germany (2000); Musée de Beaux Arts, Gent, Belgium (1999); Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation, Venice, Italy (1997).

Amongst the institutions that hosted his most recent solo shows, we mention: Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Saint-Etienne Métropole, Saint-Etienne (2014); Galleria Continua San Gimignano, San Gimignano (2015) and Tan Guobin Museum, Changsha (2017). In November and December 2017, in Havana, he is participating in a one-month Program at the Cuban artist Carlos Garaicoa's residency "ArtistaXArtista".

Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes. Arte Universal. Calle San Rafael, entre Zulueta y Monserrate, Habana Vieja, Cuba

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Open from Tuesday to Saturday, 9am - 5pm and Sunday from 10am to 2pm. From November 30th, 2017 through January 22, 2018