

PRESS RELEASE

THE 'MATTHIAS SCHALLER. DAS MEISTERSTÜCK' EXHIBITION AT THE GALLERIE D'ITALIA

Gallerie d'Italia – Milan, Intesa Sanpaolo's Museum

From 1 July 2022 to 28 August 2022

IMAGES AT THE LINK:

SCHALLER

Milan, 28 June 2022 – The “**Matthias Schaller. Das Meisterstück**” exhibition will be open to the public from the 1st of July to the 28th of August 2022 at the Gallerie d'Italia – Milan, Intesa Sanpaolo's museum.

The exhibition presents 19 photographs of the palettes belonging to great painters of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, through which Schaller captures 'indirect portraits' of the artists and their production. With this project, the master aims to capture the beauty of the artists' palettes as a window on their creative genius, like an abstract landscape of pictorial production or, in other words, the painting before the painting.

The palette is an object that can be found in nearly all painters' studios. It is a piece of equipment that is usually kept from the gaze of the public and the critics, a silent witness of the artist's work.

Can we know (and recognise) a painter through his palette?

That is the question that arose when the German artist and photographer Matthias Schaller visited the studio of Cy Twombly in Gaeta in 2007. The similarity he noted between the palette used by Twombly and his canvases prompted the photographer to embark on an intensive research project that led him, over many years and many journeys, to visit dozens of museums, foundations and private collections, in order to immortalise the palettes that major figures of nineteenth- and twentieth-century painting used to create their artworks.

Under his lens, this object of daily use, a simple work tool, turned out to be a bridge between the artist's personality and his painting. In each palette, the preparation of the paint, the material of the colour itself, mixed and dried, the scraped paint, the trace of the spatula or of the brush and the stains all express the intimate bond between the hand, the body and the mind of the artist. Painting before the painting: this tells us about their way of working, their colour preferences, the gestures with which the colour is transferred to the canvas; a touching evidence of the painter's path, the palette is the legacy of this process.

Transferred from the sphere of painting to that of photography, the palette is dematerialised to the point of losing any physical and material connotation; it takes on a new meaning, becoming an image.

The palette, Kandinsky reminds us, is "[...] often more beautiful than any artwork" (Wassily Kandinsky, "Rückblicke", 1913).

During his research, Schaller photographed palettes from the main European museums, including the Louvre, the Musée d'Orsay and the Pompidou Centre (Paris), the Tate (London), the Kunsthaus (Zurich), the Akademie der Künste (Berlin), the Metropolitan Museum (New York), private foundations, artists' families and private collectors. The project has been underway for 15 years and so far, it is made up of more than 200 palettes of 86 painters. The series is called "**Das Meisterstück**" ("**The Masterpiece**").

The exhibition will display 19 photographic enlargements (around 190 cm x 140 cm) of the palettes of, among others, Francis Bacon, Marc Chagall, Eugène Delacroix, Natalia Goncharova, Wassily Kandinsky, Édouard Manet, Henri Matisse, Joan Miró, Piet Mondrian, Giorgio Morandi, Edvard Munch, William Turner and Cy Twombly.

The photograph of Giorgio De Chirico's palette is placed in dialogue with the artist's painting, *Mannequins by the Seaside* (1926), belonging to Intesa Sanpaolo's collections.

Biography

Matthias Schaller, German, born in 1965 in Dillingen an der Donau, studied visual anthropology at the Universities of Hamburg, Göttingen and Siena. He graduated with a thesis on the work of Giorgio Sommer (Frankfurt 1834 – 1914 Naples), one of the most successful photographers of the nineteenth century.

Schaller's work has been exhibited, among other places, at the Venice Biennale, at the Giorgio Cini Foundation, at Ca' Pesaro and at the Glass Museum in Venice, at the Museum of Modern Art and at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Rio de Janeiro, at the Picasso Museum in Münster, at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, at the Wallraf-Richartz Museum in Cologne, at the Serralves Museum in Porto, at the Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, at the SITE of Santa Fe, and at the Kunstpalast in Düsseldorf.

Among the prizes that the artist has been awarded there are the Fellowship – DAAD, Rome in 1992, Fellowship – Tokyo Wonder Site, Tokyo in 2008 and, on three occasions, in 2009, 2010 and 2020, the German Photobook Award. Schaller works with the Galleria Casamadre (Naples) and with the Sonnabend Gallery (New York City).

Matthias Schaller lives between Vienna and Venice.

USEFUL INFORMATION

WHERE: Gallerie d'Italia - Milan, Piazza della Scala 6, Milan

OPENING TIMES: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.; Thursday from 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m.; closed on Monday; last entry an hour before closing

ADMISSION CHARGES: full €10; reduced €8; special reduced €5 for those under 26 years of age and clients of the Intesa Sanpaolo Group; free entry for partners, schools, minors under 18 years of age and on the first Sunday of every month

INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS: <http://www.gallerieditalia.com>, milano@gallerieditalia.com, Freephone 800.167619

Informazioni per la stampa

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Intesa Sanpaolo

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