

Alek O.  
*If There is a Last Summer Morning*  
23 May -26 July 2014

Frutta is thrilled to present the first solo show at the gallery by Alek O.

We see the creation, the memory and the recollection, as positive processes. Also literally: they are engaged in something that didn't exist before, or they preserve it from the passage of time. Doing this, they cause an increase of its value. The philosopher Georges Bataille meditated a lot on the causes of the increases in value: of a product, by the legalized theft of the labor force autonomy; of a show, by the waste, the useless splurge of resources and ostentation; of a moral precept, by the sacrifice that it imposes to those who want to make it a cornerstone of their life. In Bataille's opinion the increase in value coincides, generating a pure loss, with the sacrifice: and more substantial and irreversible is the loss, much more will be the value it creates. But, what is the value of a thing? It is the damned part, resulting from the sacrifice.

These works - geometric, or nearly - arise from the attempt to attribute an order (both aesthetic and logical) to the matter of an experienced object, whose truth is in fact, its messy and personal part. This way - creating a work of art and crystallizing memories - these works permanently destroy the original object, sublimating its sentimental value to the aesthetic value of the final object; it is an act of love in a way, made possible by a betrayal. So the beauty and the value, reveal reliance on the sacrifice, thanks to which, the work acquires its meaning.

What remains of the original objects, dissolved embroideries, cut hair? Nothing, nothing; there is a supposed mark around the works, we can feel them in explanations, titles. As for the dark matter, which is invisible, but postulated to explain the forces that prevent the universe breaking up, their influence is what ensures unity and meaning to the final objects. They are still determined by what they were, in the distance; their original part, although there is no more, it is still part of them. Who knows what the name of this part may be.

Vincenzo Latronico

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Alek O. (b. 1981, Buenos Aires, lives and works in Como) graduated in Industrial Design, Politecnico di Milano, Milan 2005. Recent and forthcoming solo exhibitions include Frieze Focus, London and Frutta, Rome (2014); Meessen De Clercq, Brussels and Mostyn, Llandudno (2013); Gallery Vela, London (2010). Recent and forthcoming group shows include Laura Bartlett Gallery, London (2014); Frutta, Rome (2013); Marianne Boesky Gallery, NYC, Francesca Minini, Milan, Supportico Lopez, Berlin, Fondazione Casa Giorgio De Chirico, Rome, Galleria Lia Rumma, Naples (all 2012); Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Palazzo Re Rebaudengo, Guarene (2011); Castello di Rivoli, Turin, Norma Mangione Gallery, Turin (2010); Lisson Gallery, London and Annet Gelink, Amsterdam (2009).

Simultaneously, we will present Shame Baby, Baby Shame, a video installation by artist and writer Rosa Aiello (curated by Alex Ross) at Hadrian - our project space.

Opening on the same night Alberto Tadiello, AMADABLAM at T293, Via G. M. Crescimbeni 11 Roma.

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