

PRESS RELEASE

**The Guardian Animals**  
+  
**other invisible beings**

4 October – 2 November 2016



There isn't any single reality, nor a unique way of looking at things. Seeing things from different angles is a very fruitful way to come to terms with the world, with our living in this world. The youngsters from Atelier dell'Errore, a laboratory of visual arts created 14 years ago as a complementary service to the Child Neuropsychiatric clinics of Reggio Emilia and Bergamo, know this very well. Their creative imagination is focused on the representation of animals depicted as ancestral figures, living organisms foreign to any traditional order of scientific classification. The Atelier animals certainly embody the fears and defeats of those drawing them, but more so their need for protection and their powerful drive towards self-assertion. Alive with a visionary energy, the Atelier works spring out of the youngsters' need for assurance and support toward their achieving self-esteem and self-confidence and the development of a fruitful relational system with other people.

For the exhibition *The Guardian Animals + other invisible beings*, made in cooperation with Collezione Maramotti and Max Mara, Atelier dell'Errore has found a suitable interlocutor in Moretti Fine Art, the gallery specialised in important Italian masters, which thanks to its constant research, is an important point of reference for collectors of ancient art. In this new project the Atelier drawings were able to strike a peculiar dialogue with classical works, showing that some themes and archetypes move across art history without any time-based and geographical constraints.

*The Fairy Queen*, the video installation displayed in the window, beckons visitors to start an emotional and imaginific journey.

The exhibition follows two different and complementary strands of work in the gallery.

In the first one, striking a dialogue with the 14<sup>th</sup>-century painting on gold ground *L'Arcangelo Michele* by Andrea de Bartoli, for the first time the Atelier experimented with drawing on a "black ground" in which the works present an entomological interpretation of the classic iconographic tradition around the seven capital sins.

The dualism, not only formal, between the gold ground in Andrea de Bartoli's painting –hinting at an absolute light – and the black of the Atelier drawings – meant as the absence of light and absolute depth – is the leitmotif of the works.

The second group of works comprise ten large drawings on a white background, mostly with irregular shapes, housed in wood cases, which share the first room with the 17<sup>th</sup>-century tondo *L'Angelo Custode* by Carlo Dolci; and the second room with a small wood painting by Luca Signorelli portraying *Saint Anthony Abbot*. Inspiration, direction and care emerge from the depiction of figures. In the former painting, becoming the paradigm of the Atelier's social and expressive approach meant as “relational art work”: the youngsters' ability to trust, and taking care of others, by presenting themselves as guides and points of reference for the frailest among them. The latter painting where the Saint, the protector of animals in the popular tradition, embodies the search for cleansing and liberation through simple life and constructive work.

The exhibition also includes the book *Atlante di zoologia profetica / Prophetic zoological Atlas* (edited by Marco Belpoliti, Corraini Edizioni publisher). The book, conceived after the exhibition *Uomini come cibo* (Milan, June – September 2015), is a sort of atlas with many plates of the Atelier works and a series of multidisciplinary contributions on art and the specificity and exceptionality of the works made by the Atelier youngsters.

On 6 October 2016, at 7.00 pm, the Italian Cultural Institute of London will host *Notice to Voyagers / The Guardian Animals*, a meeting in which Arturo Galansino (General Director of Palazzo Strozzi, Florence) and Massimiliano Gioni (Associate Director and Exhibitions Director of New Museum, New York), with Marco Belpoliti (writer and literary critic) as a moderator, will dialogue about the vision and the experience of the Atelier, starting from the book and the exhibition on show in London.

## **Info**

### **The Guardian Animals + other invisible beings**

4 October – 2 November 2016

Moretti Fine Art

2a - 6 Ryder Street, St. James's

London SW1Y 6QB

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[rsvp@morettigallery.com](mailto:rsvp@morettigallery.com)

[www.morettigallery.com](http://www.morettigallery.com)

Monday – Friday: 10.00 am – 6.00 pm

### **On the occasion of Frieze Art Fair's week**

Private view by invitation: Monday 3 October, 6.00 – 8.00 pm

RSVP by 30 September 2016: [rsvp@morettigallery.com](mailto:rsvp@morettigallery.com)

Thursday 6 October 2016: 10.00 am – 8.00 pm

Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 October 2016: 12.00 pm – 5.00 pm

### **Notice to Voyagers / The Guardian Animals**

Conversation between Arturo Galansino, Massimiliano Gioni and Marco Belpoliti

Thursday 6 October 2016, 7.00 pm

Italian Cultural Institute, 39 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8NX

RSVP by 30 September 2016: [icilondon@esteri.it](mailto:icilondon@esteri.it), tel. +44 20 7235 1461

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## **Shopping**

During the exhibition, the Max Mara store at 21, Old Bond Street, will sell the shopping bags designed by the Atelier and produced by Max Mara, whose proceeds will go to the Atelier for its activities.

With the support of **MaxMara**

## Editor's Note

### Atelier dell'Errore

Atelier dell'Errore was established in 2002 on the initiative of visual artist Luca Santiago Mora for children under the care of the Neuropsychiatric Clinic of Reggio Emilia AUSL. Since 2011 it has become a no-profit organisation with the mission of disseminating the Atelier experience in other similar institutions in Italy. In 2013 another Atelier was opened in Bergamo at the service of the Child Neuropsychiatric Clinic of the city hospital.

Recently the Atelier dell'Errore BIG, a high specialisation and training internship school in the field of visual arts, was also established, dedicated to youngsters who have attended Atelier dell'Errore for several years and, having turned 18, would no longer be able to continue participating in its activities. Atelier dell'Errore BIG is located inside the premises of Collezione Maramotti in Reggio Emilia. The Atelier has few rules, but very precise ones: erasers are banned – because errors have a value – and animals are the only subjects of the young artists' work. In the Atelier the drawings are often made together, so the work may be defined as a group artistic production; a relational experience, a sort of “social sculpture”. Atelier dell'Errore has participated in many exhibitions and events linked to contemporary art in Italy and abroad: in 2014, Giulia Zini won the international competition Edward 6, Art in Disability, the four-yearly international award held by Augustinum Stiftung and Buchheim Museum (Munich).

During EXPO 2015, the exhibition *Uomini come Cibo (Humans as Food)*, presented in Milan in cooperation with Collezione Maramotti and Max Mara, reversed the theme of ‘feeding the planet’, displaying a fantastic bestiary of man-eating creatures.

Of the recent site-specific installations, to which also visual artist Giovanni De Francesco has been collaborating for some years, let us also mention: *The Fairy Queen* for Contemporary Locus 8 in the convent of Sant'Agata del Carmine in Bergamo, with Berlinde De Bruyckere, Evgeny Antufiev and Etienne Chambaud, July 2015.

In November 2015 *Il Verme dell'Indo dalle gocce sanguinanti* for KulturFormen Galerie in Linz (Austria) and in December 2015 the light installation *Lo Zoo di luce va in città* for Luci d'artista in Turin.

### Collezione Maramotti

Collezione Maramotti is a private contemporary art collection which opened to visitors in 2007; it is located in the historical headquarters of Max Mara company, in Reggio Emilia.

The permanent collection can be visited with free admission and upon booking.

It comprises a relevant selection of more than two hundred works representing only a portion of the collection passionately put together in forty years by Maramotti family.

The collection includes paintings, sculptures and installations, from significant artistic trends both in Italy and abroad from the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century. More than one hundred twenty artists are represented with important works which at the time of their creation and acquisition had introduced elements of substantial innovation and experimentation in artistic research. For the most part, 21<sup>st</sup>-century works are not included in the permanent collection: specific exhibitions are dedicated to them in the rooms set for temporary shows, spaces where projects commissioned to international artists are also regularly exhibited. The artworks created for these exhibitions are acquired by the Collection, with the aim of merging acquisition policies with public showing.

The Collection exhibits and acquires also the projects of artists who are awarded the two-yearly Max Mara Art Prize for Women, in collaboration with Whitechapel Gallery, for emerging women artists working in the United Kingdom. The winners of the five past editions of the Prize are: Margaret Salmon, Hannah Rickards, Andrea Büttner, Laure Prouvost, Corin Sworn. The winner of the sixth edition, Emma Hart, is actually experiencing her six-month residency in Italy.

The Prize testifies to Max Mara's close relationships with the art world.

### Moretti Art Gallery

Located in the very heart of London in St. James's, Moretti Fine Art is a point of reference for collectors of old paintings from the 15<sup>th</sup>- to the 16<sup>th</sup>-century, looking for a discreet and reserved approach. The gallery offers a selection of works ranging from gold-ground paintings to the late 17<sup>th</sup>-century. It participates in the most prestigious antiquarian events, including Tefaf (Maastricht and New York), Frieze Masters (London), Biennale di Palazzo Corsini (Florence).

Throughout the years the philanthropic activities of the gallery have included the publication of monographs of Italian painters and the funding of scholarships in Italy and abroad. Fabrizio Moretti has donated art works at the Galleria dell'Accademia in Florence, the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the Los Angeles County Museum. The latest example of the gallery's activity is the creation of the Fondazione Fabrizio Moretti, a no-profit institution supporting disabled people.