

TUCCI RUSSO

Chambres d'Art

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Wednesday > Saturday 11 am -1 pm | 3-7 pm

THOMAS SCHÜTTE

Opening

Thursday 4th October 2018 | 5 - 7 pm
Until 22nd December 2018

TUCCI RUSSO Studio per l'Arte Contemporanea is pleased to announce the sixth exhibition, at our Turin headquarters in Via Davide Bertolotti 2, by the German artist Thomas Schütte whose first solo show was held in 1986.

Reflection on the human condition always lies at the heart of Thomas Schütte's work, independently of the subject or of the materials employed. In his art he frequently draws on the theme of the family, of human expressions and architectonic models. He works in different mediums, such as steel, glass, bronze and ceramics, to explore concepts linked to cultural memory, to existential difficulty and to human effort that is often expended in striving towards a utopian and impossible ideal. Schütte's sculpted figures reflect the image and moods of man, and therefore of the artist himself, against the backdrop of life's precariousness.

The exhibition opening on 4th October consists of drawings and works of recent creation, including the ceramic sculpture *Brauner Kopf* (2018), a face with an enigmatic upward glance, and a new version of the sculptures titled *Fratelli* [Brothers]. The first version dates to 2012: among other things, the sculpture was presented in the bronze version also at the exhibition *Figur*, held at the Beyeler Foundation in Basel, Switzerland. The *Fratelli* on show comprises 4 busts in blue-lacquered aluminium: the material is not defined in itself and thus loses its recognisability. Reminiscent of ancient classical Roman statues, they are intended to represent an imaginary family. In fact it is often the artist's practice to recover subjects and motifs from the past, giving them the possibility of a new form and a new meaning.

There are also two works on show titled *Mann in Matsch mit Hut* and *Mann in Matsch mit Fahne* which draw inspiration from the sculpture *Mann in Matsch* [Man in Mud], a subject the artist developed in the early eighties. This image grew out of a small plastic toy that Schütte decided to put away in a box because it kept falling down. In the original *Mann in Matsch* sculpture, as in these ones, the figure, unable to possess its own autonomous equilibrium, is fused with the base itself, up to the knee. Schütte sees this figure, locked in its material and incapable of moving, as an allegory of modern man's obsession with constant historical progress. An existential and cultural impasse.

Other works on show are eight watercolours and the ceramic triptych *Fake Flag*, which refers to a utopian reality since it aims to represent the flag of an imaginary state.

Thomas Schütte (Oldenburg, 1954) lives and works in Düsseldorf where in 2016 he set up his own foundation in a building he himself designed.

His solo shows include: Oldenburger Kunstverein, Germany (2018); Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2017); Beyeler Foundation, Riehen-Basel, Switzerland (2013-2014); Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany (2013); Castello di Rivoli – Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin (2012); Serpentine Gallery, London (2012).

His work appears in prestigious international collections such as the Centre Georges Pompidou and the Pinault Collection of Paris, the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía of Madrid, the Tate London, the Stedelijk Museum of Amsterdam, the Art Institute of Chicago, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the MoMA of New York.

In 2005 he was awarded the prestigious Golden Lion on the occasion of the 51st Venice Biennale.

He is now one of the foremost artists of his day.