

LA VELOCITÀ DELLE IMMAGINI

Giacomo Balla, Sylvain Croci-Torti, Chloé Delarue, Nicolás Fernández, Louisa Gagliardi, Miriam Laura Leonardi, Emanuele Marcuccio, Rammellzee, Manon Wertenbroek, Urban Zellweger

From 26 October 2016 to 21 January 2017

Opening:
Tuesday 25 October 2016, 18.30

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Guided tours Thursday 16.00 - 17.30,
Saturday 16.00 - 17.30 - 18.00
Free admission, by reservation only
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Closed from 23 December 2016 to 8 January 2017

Istituto Svizzero di Roma presents the group show *The Speed of Images*, a reflection on the relationship between speed, modernity and art. The exhibition includes works by artists from different periods, such as the Futurist **Giacomo Balla** and the artists **Sylvain Croci-Torti, Chloé Delarue, Nicolás Fernández, Louisa Gagliardi, Miriam Laura Leonardi, Emanuele Marcuccio, Rammellzee, Manon Wertenbroek** and **Urban Zellweger**.

While recent developments of online information tools seem to have pushed images to maximum speed of circulation on a worldwide level, this exhibition sets out, through a collage effect, to suggest that this perception of flow and acceleration has already offered interstitial zones, for some time, which artists can legitimately occupy. From the early years of the last century, Futurism paid tribute to speed as one of the essential values of the modern age, also suggesting that the physical observation of its effects could provide the stimulus for an aesthetic reversal. Curving lines, breaking up straight lines, fragmenting colors, Giacomo Balla created an iconography of speed, projecting painting into an abstract kinetic space.

But the world of mechanical velocity and the reproducibility of images is also that of the urban explosion, of the exponential increase of dimensions in settlements that become gigantic cities. The least affluent, pushed away from urban centers, find themselves dependent on mass media and public

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transport, on those objects without origin that the “writers” of the 1980s deploy to take possession of cities and to dream of an identity that can go beyond their present condition. Thus Rammellzee imagines an astral, retro-Futurist and redeeming astral destiny, charged with the unfulfilled promises of modernity. Through a strange effect of chronological condensation, not far from the ecstatic and only slightly morbid modern hope of Balla, and from the whimsical disillusion of Rammellzee, the questions of identity posed by the circulation of knowledge and the explosion of borders and practices become one of the favored spaces of many artists. They are no longer interested in inserting themselves in a tradition, a movement, a field; they simply want to imagine many filters to place over the world. And so if nothing stops the images, artists do not cease to try to even more firmly establish their contours, the colors and reflections left behind by their passage.

Giacomo Balla (1871 - 1958) was a painter, sculptor and set designer, and an outstanding figure of the Futurist movement. Fundamentally self-taught, during the course of his career he explored both abstraction and naturalistic realism. His works are shown in leading Italian and international museums.

Sylvain Croci-Torti (1985) works in Martigny and Lausanne. He studied at ECAL - École cantonal d'art et de design de Lausanne, taking a degree in 2013. He has taken part in many group shows in Switzerland and on an international level.

Chloé Delarue (1986) lives and works in Geneva. She studied at HEAD - Haute école d'art et de design in Geneva, taking a Masters in 2014. She has had many shows in Switzerland, and in 2016 she won the Prix Kiefer Hablitzel and the Prix Hirzel de la Société des Arts, Geneva.

Nicolás Fernández (1968) lives and works in Geneva. He studied at the École supérieure d'art visuel in Geneva. Since 1991 he has taken part in group shows in Switzerland and abroad; he has shown work at the Berlin Biennale.

Louisa Gagliardi (1989) lives and works in Zurich. In 2012 she took a degree at ECAL - École cantonal d'art et de design de Lausanne. She has shown in various spaces in Switzerland and on an international level. In 2014 she won the Swiss Design Awards.

Miriam Laura Leonardi (1985) lives and works in Zurich. She studied at ZHdK Zürcher Hochschule der Künste, taking a Master of Fine Arts in 2015. She explores questions regarding social dynamics through various media, especially writing, audio and performance.

Emanuele Marcuccio (1987) is an Italian artist who lives and works in Lausanne. He uses perforated metal sheets and industrial components in his work. With a degree from ECAL - École cantonal d'art et de design de Lausanne, he has recently shown at Museo Experimental El Eco, Mexico City, Fondation d'Enterprise Ricard in Paris and Centre D'Art Contemporain in Geneva.

Rammellzee (~1960 - 2010) was a visual artist, rapper and street artist based in New York. As a theorist, he invented the term “Gothic Futurism,” focusing on linguistic themes, an activity that had a profound influence on his work as a writer. He played an active role in the germinal phase of American rap, collaborating with the Beastie Boys, Cypress Hill and many others.

Manon Wertenbroek (1991) lives and works in Paris. She took a degree at ECAL - École cantonal d'art et de design de Lausanne in 2014. Her works have been published in magazines and journals on an international level, and she has taken part in many exhibitions.

Urban Zellweger (1991) lives and works in Zurich. In 2014 he took a degree at ZHDK - Zürcher Hochschule der Künste, and in 2015 at HEAD - Haute école d'art et de design in Geneva. He has taken part in various group shows in Switzerland and on an international level.

At the time of the opening of *The Speed of Images*, visitors can see two installations by the Swiss artists **Valentin Carron** and **Sylvie Fleury***, which will remain for one year in the spaces of the patio and garden of Villa Maraini, the Roman headquarters of the Swiss Institute.

Valentin Carron (1977) lives and works in Martigny. In his works he often reproduces Swiss elements, examining them in a critical way. He has recently widened his focus to include themes like power, politics and classification. He has shown work at the 55th Venice Biennale (2013), where he represented Switzerland, and at the Kunsthalle in Bern (2014).

Sylvie Fleury (1961) lives and works in Geneva. She focuses on sculpture and the modeling of different materials, as well as video, neon, installations and wall paintings. In her works she reflects on the position of the artist in the society of consumption, playing with references to art history like Mondrian, Duchamp, Andre and others. Important shows include the retrospective at MAMCO Geneva (2008-09), CAC Malaga (2011), and the exhibition at Villa Stuck in Munich (2016). Her works are on view at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Centre for Art and Media Karlsruhe, and Museum der Moderne Salzburg.

* Part of the *Collection des Fonds d'art contemporain de la Ville et du Canton de Genève (FMAC et FCAC)*.

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