

LA VELOCITÀ DELLE IMMAGINI

26 October 2016 – 21 January 2017
Opening 25 October 2016, 6.30 pm
Istituto Svizzero di Roma, via Ludovisi 48

Istituto Svizzero di Roma presents the group show *La Velocità delle Immagini*, 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 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.

At the time of the opening of *La Velocità delle Immagini*, 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.

Sylvie Fleury (1961) lives and works in Geneva.

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

Giacomo Balla (1871 - 1958) was one of the main representatives of Italian Futurism.

Sylvain Croci-Torti (1985) works in Martigny and Lausanne.

Chloé Delarue (1986) lives and works in Geneva.

Nicolás Fernández (1968) lives and works in Geneva.

Louisa Gagliardi (1989) lives and works in Zürich.

Miriam Laura Leonardi (1985) lives and works in Zürich.

Emanuele Marcuccio (1987) lives and works in Lausanne.

Rammellzee (~1960 - 2010) was an artist and rapper from New York.

Manon Wertenbroek (1991) lives and works in Paris.

Urban Zellweger (1991) lives and works in Zürich.

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Guided tours
Thursday 16.00 - 17.30
Saturday 16.00 - 17.30 - 18.00
Free admission.

By reservation only: arte@istitutosvizzero.it

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