

SERGI BARNILS

PEDRA CÈLICA

February 13 – April 4, 2020

Opening reception

Thursday February 13, h 6:30 pm

MARCOROSSI artecontemporanea
Corso Venezia 29, 20121 Milan

The Catalan artist experiments with the encaustic technique on slabs of stone for the very first time. His most recent cycle of works will be exhibited in twin solo shows in Milan and Verona.

Four years after **Sergi Barnils'** last solo show in Milan, MARCOROSSI artecontemporanea is happy to present the artist's new cycle of works, **Pedra Cèlica**. The gallery will exhibit **twelve new works** revealing the great care the Catalan artist dedicates to the treatment of materials and colour in a form of painting packed with **primordial graffiti and Mediterranean colours**.

Sergi Barnils has painted full-time since the Eighties, and his artistic career has evolved to full maturity in a synthesis of space bearing his incisive, refined mark. Over the years the artist has perfected **encaustic painting**, a hot wax painting technique used by the ancient Greeks and Romans, condensing his intimate reflections on the human condition and his personal sentiment of celebration of life in all its forms in his images.

In recent years Barnils has approached sculpture on stone, expanding his visual alphabet to encompass three-dimensionality. This new experience has given rise to the works in the *Pedra Cèlica* cycle, in which encaustic painting is adapted to the porous surfaces of marble, granite and slate. Abandoning the perfect geometric shapes of the canvas – or the wooden board – his new paintings have a highly material presence with their broken-up, irregular shapes evoking ancient archaeological findings and fragments of history. Like epigraphic steles of mysterious origins, the works appearing in the *Pedra Cèlica* exhibition express a sense of sacredness and the artist's profound spirituality: these are **the stones that pave the streets of heaven**.

Sergi Barnils was born in Bata, the capital of Equatorial Guinea, in 1954 and lives and works in Barcelona and Sant Cugat, Spain. He began exhibiting his work in 1980 with a solo show at Maravia Gallery in Tordera, followed by solo and group shows in galleries and museums elsewhere in Spain: in Barcelona, Girona, Majorca, Zaragoza, Logroño and Madrid. In the Nineties his work began to attract attention elsewhere in Europe: in Germany, Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Italy. His most important solo shows include *La morada inmutable* at Palazzo Racani Arroni in Spoleto in 2002; *Doxologies* at Galleria Maragall in Barcelona and Palazzo Pretorio di Castell'Arquato in Piacenza in 2007; Museo del Complesso dei Disciplini in Clusone in 2008; Museo di Palazzo Principi in Correggio in 2009; an anthological exhibition entitled *Envers la Ciutat Esplendent* at the Caixa Terrassa Foundation in Barcelona, and *Maragda* at MARCOROSSI artecontemporanea in Milan, both in 2011. More recently, the artist has exhibited in Italy, in Turin, Verona and Pietrasanta, and his work has been featured in group shows at MACBA in Barcelona and in Australia. The year 2017 saw two important solo shows, *Maran Ata* at Fundació Vila Casas' Espai Volart in Barcelona and *Revelació* at Palazzo Anguissola Cimafova in Piacenza, Italy. In the same year, the artist exhibited his work in Italy again, in a group show entitled *Alfabeto Segnico*, curated by Alberto Fiz, at Fondazione Stelline in Milan and then at CAMeC Contemporary Art Museum in La Spezia.

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