

September 20 through November 15 2016

Just Kids

a monumental work by **Valerio Berruti**
alongside the extraordinary architecture of the **Cathedral of Verona**

for the exhibition

Paradise lost. The shadow, innocence and the black sun

presented by **Marco Enrico Giacomelli**
at MARCOROSSlartecontemporanea galleries in Milan and Verona

5 aluminium sculptures 3 metres high form a **virtual cathedral**, a work combining architecture with sculpture, poetry with experience. ***Just Kids*** is **Valerio Berruti's** latest monumental project: a circle of children with their arms raised to the heavens, forming a sort of dome which **the spectator can enter**. The sensation is that of going into the heart of the work, feeling surrounded and protected by the big sculptures.

The title is that of Patti Smith's biography (*Just Kids*, published by Ecco in 2010). The setting is New York in the late sixties, and the atmosphere is effervescent. Strolling about the city, Patti Smith and Robert Mapplethorpe cross paths with an elderly couple, who stop and stare at them in amazement. "Take a picture of them," she says. "Why?" asks her husband. "They're just kids".

The installation will be on view **September 20 through November 15** in **Piazza Duomo in Verona**, near the marvellous Romanesque cathedral of Santa Maria Matricolare.

At the same time, in its twin galleries in **Milan** and **Verona** MARCOROSSlartecontemporanea hosts the exhibition ***Paradise lost. The shadow, innocence and the black sun***, presented by Marco Enrico Giacomelli. The project takes another look at the theme of childhood, an inexhaustible source of inspiration for **Berruti**, who **says**: "For the first time, my drawings feature a new character appearing alongside the figures of the children: the shadow. The shadow is a playmate, but it is also darkness; it is childhood, but also adulthood; symbol of a fascinating rite of passage. I like to think that this consciousness always comes about with a good dose of frivolity, like a child playing with his shadow."

The artist addresses this challenging theme with his usual light touch, with an affectionate, curious eye and his highly recognisable style. "Berruti seems to be constantly reflecting on childhood, characterised by its carefree spirit," **notes curator Giacomelli**. "In actual fact a melancholic, disenchanted vein has been appearing below the surface of his art for years. And it comes to light in this exhibition: the shadow and its discovery incarnate the loss of innocence and the arrival of the age of awareness. Which is not necessarily a bad thing, and above all teaches us that the world is not a matter of black and white, but is made up of a thousand shades of grey."

The exhibition presents **20 tapestries**, frescoes on jute, and **40 drawings**, divided between the two galleries but combined in a single volume published by Silvana editore.

Over the past few years Valerio Berruti's work has evolved and been enriched with a variety of different artistic techniques and materials. The exhibition features, alongside the paintings, a

series of **concrete bas reliefs** and an **iron sculpture** intent on playing with its own shadow on the wall.

The project will be completed with a new animated video entitled *Paradise Lost*, in which a child plays with his shadow, to a soundtrack by famous American singer **Joan As Police Woman**.

Valerio Berruti was born in Alba, Piemonte in 1977, graduated from D.A.M.S. in Turin with a degree in art criticism, and lives and works in a deconsecrated 17th century church in Verduno (CN) which he purchased and restored in 1995. In **2004** he won the Premio Celeste and the Premio Pagine Bianche d'Autore della Regione Piemonte, and in **2005** he was selected for the International Studio and Curatorial Program in New York. He created the installation *Se ci fosse la luna* (*If the moon had been there*) for Palazzo Bricherasio in Turin in **2006**, and it was presented on the façade of Palazzo Re Enzo in Bologna the following year. In **2007** he participated in the group show *Uniforms and costumes* at Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art in Israel and the *48th October Salon* in Belgrade, and was selected for one of Europe's most prestigious residencies, the Dena Foundation for Contemporary Art in Paris. He also inaugurated the exhibition *Micro-narratives* - 48th October Salon at Belgrade Contemporary Art Museum, curated by Lorand Heigij. International events in **2008** include the solo show *Magnificat* at the Keumsan Gallery in Seoul and the group show *Detour* at Centre Pompidou in Paris. In **2009** his installation *E più non dimandare* (*Ask no more*) was shown at Galleria Civica in Modena, and in the same year he was the youngest artist to exhibit at the Italian Pavilion in the 53rd Biennale di Venezia, showing his animated video *La figlia di Isacco* (*Daughter of Isaac*) featuring a soundtrack by Paolo Conte. In **2010** he exhibited *Una Sola Moltitudine* (*A single multitude*) at Fondazione Stelline in Milan, and in **2011** his solo show *Kizuna* (featuring a video with music written for the occasion by Ryuichi Sakamoto) was at Pola Museum in Tokyo. In September 2011 he exhibited at the City Museum in Belgrade, and his installation *La rivoluzione terrestre* (*The revolution of the earth*), curated by Andrea Viliani, with music by Alessandro Mannarino, was exhibited in the Church of San Domenico in Alba. In **2012** he held a solo show called *Udaka* at the Nirox Foundation in Johannesburg, and in **2013** he exhibited his installation *Il momento in cui i nostri occhi si incontrano* (*The moment our eyes meet*), curated by Francesca Alfano Miglietti at Spazio NonostanteMarras in Milan and held a solo show in the Langhe district entitled *Dove il cielo s'attacca alla collina* (*Where the sky meets the hill*) with a text by Angela Vettese. In October 2013 the exhibition *Almost Blue* presented by 29 Arts in Progress was shown at the Helutrans in Singapore. In **2014** he produced the cover of Andrea Bajani's last book, *La vita non è in ordine alfabetico* (*Life is not in alphabetical order*), published by Einaudi, and presented the exhibition *Così sia* (*Let it be so*) in Pietrasanta; he participated in the Biennale Italia-Cina of Contemporary Art in Beijing, in *The Intuitionist* exhibition at the Drawing Center in New York, in *Resilienze 2.0* in Palazzo Saluzzo in Turin, in the 20th Premio Cairo with his animated video *Fermati, O Sole!* (*Stop, oh Sun!*). In **2015** his work *Udaka* was exhibited in the *Holy Mystery* exhibition organised in the Santo Volto Church in Turin during the exhibition of the Holy Shroud.

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- **Milan (Corso Venezia 29) September 23 through November 5 2016**
Opening Thursday, September 22 at 18:30
- **Verona (Via Garibaldi 18) September 25 through November 5 2016**
Opening Saturday, September 24 at 18:30

<http://www.marcorossiartecontemporanea.net/> <http://www.valeriberruti.com/>