

Press release

## Luca Francesconi Senza titolo \_Anime del Purgatorio

curated by Marianna Agliottone

Opening: Thursday 19 January 2017 - h 6pm

Duration: until 19 February 2017

Venue: Complesso di Santa Maria delle Anime del Purgatorio ad Arco, Via Tribunali 39 - 80138 Napoli

Opening hours: from Monday to Friday and Sunday from 10am to 2pm – Saturday from 10am to 5pm

info: [purgatorioadarco.it](http://purgatorioadarco.it) - T. 081 440438; [galleriaumbertodimarino.com](http://galleriaumbertodimarino.com) - T. 081 0609318

Umberto Di Marino is pleased to announce Luca Francesconi's event *Senza Titolo \_Anime del Purgatorio* on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, curated by Marianna Agliottone.

It is no longer a system for producing images but a gesture that adheres to authentic life, rituality, the arcane cult that has still not lost its intensity. In his work *Senza titolo \_Anime del Purgatorio* (Untitled – the Souls of Purgatory), Luca Francesconi does not really seek to provide a representation. Instead, he invokes a folk tradition that can be traced to the sentiment of death without which, in the collective imagination of southern Italian culture, life becomes insipid and bland; the anonymous, collective death which is simply endured and not alleviated of sorrow. The gesture of art becomes a tribute to those “sinners who pray for other sinners for mutual wellbeing and grace”, explains the artist, housed in a sacred place for the devout and a historical place for everyone. Since *art is an activity that objectifies concepts or conceptualises objects*– it could be argued embracing Arnheimian reasoning – the seeds that have penetrated the warm dampness of the earth and the sculptures whose visible signs only have a circumstantial meaning (rather like the unknown souls of purgatory) set the spirituality of concepts against the physicality of the visual, free to “manifest” other things that transcend them. Thus, in this afterlife that is not yet paradise, in the transitional dimension from gloom to light, from the state of impermanence to being, Luca Francesconi tacitly goes a step beyond the semblances of life and places the observer in front of the bottomless enigma of the silence in which we encounter God.

**Luca Francesconi** is an artist, born in Mantova in 1979. Lives and work in Mantova (IT) and Paris (FR). He has participated in numerous exhibitions in public and private spaces, such as: Fondazione Ratti (2000), Tirana Biennale (2001), Fuori Uso (2004), Galleria Civica Trento (2004), Cristina Guerra Gallery - Lisbon (2006), Maison Populaire - Montreuil (2007), Palais de Tokyo (2009), Galleria Umberto Di Marino (2006, 2009, 2014), Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Crac Alsace, Magasin - Grenoble, Fluxia (2010), Mot – Brussels, Chez Valentin - Paris (2011), Musées de Montbéliard, Art Nova-Art Basel Miami (2012), Man – Nuoro and Museo Marino Marini (2013), Shanaynay - Paris (2014), Tonus - Paris (2015), JupiterWoods - London and Tunnel Tunnel - Lausanne (2016)

Between 2008 and 2010 he co-directed Brown project space in Milan.

In 2009 he won the "Illy Present / Future" together at Umberto Di Marino gallery, with a jury composed by Alexis Vaillant, Hans-Ulrich Obrist and Jens Hoffman, during Artissima in Turin.

In 2011 he was invited by Bice Curiger to "Illumination", 54th Venice Biennale. In 2014 he was invited by Giovanni Carmine, director Kunsthalle Sankt Gallen and Alexis Vaillant, chief curator CAPC-Bordeaux take part in "ThenNow" - Miart a collaborative work with Jimmie Durham. In 2015 he was invited by Christine Macel at the exhibition *Nel mezzo del mezzo* at Museo Riso, Palermo(I) and he participated at group show *Beauty Codes* at Kunsthalle Lissabon, Lisbon. In 2016 he participates at the XXV edition of The National Visual Arts Prize City of Gallarate, MAGA Museum, I