

Jonathan Monk

The Land that Time forgot (Part 2)

November 10 – December 20, 2017

Opening reception November 10, 7:30–9pm

mehdi chouakri

Jonathan Monk's exhibition *The Land that Time forgot (Part 2)* refers to the work of the late Italian artist Salvo (1947-2015), who lived and worked in Turin and had first been starting out with the Italian Arte Povera movement in the second half of the 1960s.

The British artist Jonathan Monk became known in the early 1990s for his strong links to 1960s and 1970s art, combining those influences with his personal artistic life and characteristic British elements, e.g. pop and rock music. His art about (contemporary) art is in a wider sense an appropriation or a manifest association with the works of his "heroes" from the field of Conceptual Art, such as On Kawara and Sol LeWitt, but also from Arte Povera, like Giulio Paolini or Salvo. But Monk is not just appropriating: he established an idiosyncrastic oeuvre which expands from those obvious historical references, but nevertheless clearly thrives on its own. His art represents a kind of "second generation postmodernism", and shows his capacity to develop a personal and authentic body of works out of strong, yet varying artistic role models.

On the occasion of the second exhibition of works by Salvo at Mehdi Chouakri, Monk has been downloading pictures of the painter's unmistakable, colorful landscapes from the internet, printing them digitally on large canvases. In a new approach to his concept of reference, Monk painted over almost the entire compositions, sparing only Salvo's typical and immediately recognizable trees. Here also an affordable "price idea" becomes part of Monk's concept: the monetary value of each painting is strictly based upon the varying number of trees pictured in each individual painting, regardless of image or format. With this series of works, Monk's artistic strategy becomes apparent: at first, an image search on the Internet, then a digital printing process, and, finally, painting over it using a straight-forward concept, and finally pricing each work according to what is "left" of Salvo's original image. By basing his strategy of appropriation upon the partial "erasure" of the original source, Monk in a way demonstrates both his sovereign approach as well as his conceptual familiarity with the art of Salvo.

The Land that Time forgot was first staged a year ago, in Salvo's former studio in Turin, where all of Salvo's paintings which inspired Monk had originally been executed.

We would like to thank Cristina Tuarivoli, Norma Mangione, Julia Hölz and especially Jochen Meyer and Thomas Riegger from Galerie Meyer Riegger Berlin / Karlsruhe for supporting this exhibition. Jonathan Monk will open a solo exhibition titled *The Knowledge* at Meyer Riegger Berlin on November 24th.

Jonathan Monk (born 1969 in Leicester, Great Britain) lives and works in Berlin. His work has been shown in international art institutions including: Kunsthau Baselland, Muttenz, Switzerland (2016), Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Roma, Rome, Italy (2015), Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), Dublin, Ireland (2014), Centro de Arte Contemporáneo (CAC) Málaga, Spain (2013), Kunstraum Dornbirn, Austria (2013), Palais de Tokyo and Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris, France (2008), Haus am Waldsee, Berlin and Kunstverein Hannover, Hannover (2006), Institute of Contemporary Art, London, UK (2005) and Museum Kunst Palast, Dusseldorf, (2003). In addition, his work has been featured in numerous group exhibitions, including: Whitney Biennale (2006), 50th and 53rd Venice Biennale (2003, 2009), Berlin Biennale (2001) and Taipei Biennial (2000). In 2012 he was awarded the Prix du Quartier Des Bains in Geneva.

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