

PRESS RELEASE

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ERNEST PIGNON-ERNEST

"SI JE REVIENS"

PASOLINI ASSASSINÉ

43, ROUTE DES JEUNES

OPENING 01.09.2016

It is with great pleasure that Art Bärtschi & Cie approaches the 2016 season with a new exhibition by **Ernest Pignon-Ernest**, with whom the gallery has been collaborating for more than 20 years.

Under the title "*Si je reviens*": *Pasolini assassinated*, the French artist pays tribute to the Italian poet and filmmaker by proposing a series of drawings and photographs representing him carrying his own corpse. Ernest Pignon-Ernest made many studies, sketches and drawings of his subject before going to stick them at night in the streets of Rome, Ostia, Scampia, or Matera. Each time, the images are set in an environment having a direct relationship with the life, work or thought of the Italian director. The locations chosen are not random. As always with Ernest Pignon-Ernest, the visible (light, space, volumes, colours, texture of the walls) and the non-visible (memory of the place, symbolic charge) dialogue with the pasted image. The chosen location reveals the image as much as the image reveals the place.

Pasolini has always been a major reference for Ernest Pignon-Ernest, who thus decided to resurrect the author of the *Theorem* 40 years after his assassination on a beach in Ostia on November 2, 1975. He brings us face to face with his straight look, his eyes wide open, which seem to ask us: "What have you done with my death?" This life-size portrait, which is not without reminding us of Michelangelo's Pietà, violently calls out to the spectator. In fact, Pasolini's face glued to the Italian streets will be torn off time and again. The words of this visionary and committed intellectual have lost none of their relevance. On the contrary: today's world corresponds in many ways to the poet's most pessimistic predictions.

Ernest Pignon-Ernest was born in 1942 in Nice. Considered one of the pioneers of urban art in France, he has been transforming the walls of cities around the world for fifty years now. Today he is a major reference for street artists such as JR or C215 who regularly pay tribute to him. Although Ernest Pignon-Ernest primarily invests public space, his works have nevertheless been exhibited in prestigious institutions such as the Museum of Fine Arts in Beijing, the Neue Pinakothek in Munich and the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris. They have also been included in more than one internationally renowned collection, such as those of the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris or the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Caen. The city of Nice is currently devoting a major retrospective to him at the MAMAC (until 8 January 2017), accompanied by an in situ intervention in the abbey church of Saint-Pons (until 2 October 2016). Ernest Pignon-Ernest lives and works in Paris.

For further information
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