

(Press text)

## **„Il Grande Architetto“ Luigi Presicce**

Opening: Wednesday, June 6th, 2012, at 7 pm

Duration: June 7th – August 26th, 2012



For occasion of the DOCUMENTA 13, Galerie Anita Beckers presents the Italian artist Luigi Presicce. During this Summer in Kassel, Presicce's work "The Feast of the living (reflecting on death)", in collaboration with Luigi Negro, Emilio Fantin, Giancarlo Noresse and Cesare Pietroiusti, can be seen. Based on a pilgrimage which celebrates life and reflects upon death, the first station took place on November 2, 2010 in San Cesario di Lecce / Italy.

In its video space, Galerie Anita Beckers proudly presents Luigi Presicce's 4-channel installation "Il Grande Architetto" (The Great Architect), produced in 2011. Luigi Presicce's work researches liturgy and popular culture, Masonic symbols and alchemy, with particular references to art history. His tableaux vivants create a space that is both surreal and timeless.

(Text by Filippo Romeo / Art Forum)

"Inspired by the killing of Hiram Abiff - a key allegorical figure in Masonic rituals and the architect of the temple of Solomon - the four untitled and looped video projections appear at first to be freeze-frame images of a single story. But in fact, they are shots that often frame immobile figures caught in the act of doing something or holding a pose - stock-still, as if frozen by the shutter release.

In the first video, a man on horseback whose face is covered by a pyramid-shaped helmet holds in his hand a mask with the features of the writer and philosopher George Ivanovich Gurdjieff. At his side is another man who holds the reins, with a bare torso and his face covered. The figures

stand in front of an eighteenth-century coffeehouse in Lu Cafausu. In the background one can glimpse an anonymous modern building that clashes with the elegance of the figures and with the architecture of the older structure. In the second video, three men with exposed torsos mime the act of striking and destroying the golden head.

The scene unfolds on a heap of earth in a bauxite quarry in Otranto in Italy. The men symbolize three followers of Abiff who killed their master with tools of geometry.

The third video transmits an overturned image of a crane; once the framing is turned right side up, the viewer understands that the crane serves to support the body of a man, namely one of the three followers, who are all executed: one crucified, one stoned to death, and one hung from a rope.

The fourth video, set in a quarry in Lecce, Italy, represents expiation. Two men are filmed while inside an old tufa quarry from the early twentieth century; one holds a book and a three-dimensional model of the rules for constructing cathedrals. Thus concludes the allegorical tale that Presicce produces with conscious visual and evocative skill."

„Il grande Architetto“ was originally produced for the permanent exhibition at Marsèlleria in Milano.

Born in Porto Cesareo in 1976, Luigi Presicce lives and works between Milan and Porto Cesareo. Graduated by the Fine Arts Academy in Lecce, Presicce completed his studies by the American artist Joan Jonas at the Antonio Ratti Foundation in Como in 2007. He is the recipient of several awards, including the Epon Art Prize (2007), the Emerging Talents Prize by CCC Strozzi in Palazzo Strozzi in Florence (2011) and more recently the Long Play Prize des MAGA Museo Arte Gallarate (2012). Besides many exhibitions in Italy, such as the Janny Haniver show at Fondazione Claudio Buziol in Venice (2011), Presicce's work has been showed at the Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art in Greece (2011), La Rada in Locarno (2010) and at Iseyoshi Gallery in Tokyo (2004). Presicce participated at the Festival Reims Scènes at Frac Champagne-Ardenne (2011), at the Third Triennale design museum in Milan (2010), among many other exhibitions. In 2012, together with Luigi Negro, Emilio Fantin, Giancarlo Norese and Cesare Pietroiusti, Presicce will be participating in the project „Lu Cafauso“ at DOCUMENTA13 in Kassel.

**Opening hours:**

Tu - Fr: 11 am – 6 pm

Sa: 11 am – 2 pm

& by appointment