

# FONDAZIONE PASTIFICIO CERERE

hosts

## THE MIRACLE OF URAKAWA

by François Marcadon

Opening day: Saturday 7 October 2023, 11 am – 8 pm

9 to 14 October 2023

**Silos, Fondazione Pastificio Cerere**

Via degli Ausoni 7 – Rome

press release

On **Saturday, 7 October 2023**, on the occasion of **Giornata del Contemporaneo**, **Fondazione Pastificio Cerere** is hosting **THE MIRACLE OF URAKAWA**, an exhibition recounting the project **François Marcadon** carried out in Japan in 2019, thanks to the support of the **Wallonie-Bruxelles Federation** and the **Equipe Asbl-Réseau de psychiatrie sociale**.

The exhibition, to be set up in the silos of Fondazione Pastificio Cerere, will be open to the public until 14 October 2023.

With his practice, François Marcadon reflects on the relationship between mind and body; of the latter, he investigates the vanity and transience, the plasticity and metamorphic potential, along with its unconditional finiteness – its mortality. His aesthetically elegant works reveal a disturbing phantasmagorical dimension, revealing the artist's personal mythology, which is both dreamlike and ruthless.

*THE MIRACLE OF URAKAWA* presents 30 watercolours and a text written in the form of a diary by Marcadon during his stay in northern Japan in 2019. In Urakawa, the artist worked with the psychiatric institute Bethel House, a facility dedicated to innovative therapeutic practices, distinguishing itself in the Japanese mental health scene thanks to the use of talk therapy and the creation of a relationship of trust between operators and patients, in which all differentiation is broken down.

**In October 2023**, with the support of **Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI)**, François Marcadon will carry out a **residency in Rome** to continue his investigation into **psychic fragility**, the long-term outcome of which will be the tracing of a panorama of madness in different countries.

During his stay in the capital, the artist will compare contemporary mental health practices applied within *Comunità Reverie* with those of the past, focusing on the Santa Maria della Pietà asylum, one of the oldest psychiatric facilities in Europe; created in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, it is now closed, but the site remains accessible.

*Comunità Reverie* is a non-profit organisation founded in 1989 operating in the field of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation for people with mental disorders of various kinds. Its main purpose is to carry out studies

and applied research in the field of therapy of mental suffering in the spirit of Italian Law 180/78 and subsequent state and regional regulations governing psychiatric reform.

Also **in Italy**, Marcadon will focus on the relationship between the patients and the staff of the healthcare facility, with the aim of identifying typical psychological profiles and documenting this second phase of the project with further portraits in the future. In addition, in Rome, the artist will interview René Stockman, Superior General of the Congregation of the Brothers of Charity since 2000 and a specialist in psychiatric care, to initiate a discussion on the Vatican's position on mental health.

## Biography

François Marcadon (Nantes, 1981) lives and works in Brussels, Belgium.

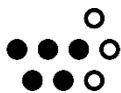
After attending the École Supérieure des Beaux-arts -BFA- (Nantes) in 2004, and after graduating as a teaching assistant at the École Nationale des Beaux-arts & IUFM (Bourges) in 2005, he undertook a long series of artistic residencies between Europe and Asia which contributed greatly to the definition of his personal style.

Among the most significant residencies: Center d'art contemporain, Pontmain (2007); Center Hospitalier Universitaire, Angers (2008); Feng Chia University, Taichung (2013). Scholarships: Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelle for Bethel House, Sapporo & Urakawa (2019) and WBI for the Reverie Community, Rome (2023). His works have been exhibited in both public and private places.

Among the main solo exhibitions are: Le Trouble, le Double et l'Oubli, L'Atelier, Nantes, 2023; Même les oiseaux ne naissent pas sans tête, Neuf Gallery, Brussels, 2021; Ah...l'amour!, L'Orangerie, Bastogne, 2017; Look and feel your best, MOCA, Taipei, 2014; Golden days, Point Éphémère, Paris, 2013

Press kit: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/0pwxj136o1yjsxjdhbrp/h?rlkey=hbhj0arw1y1cw3lb1qy6d3pxf&dl=0>

*In collaboration with*



Wallonie - Bruxelles  
International.be



Evento organizzato  
in occasione della



Promossa da



*The Miracle of Urakawa is part of the programme of the 19<sup>th</sup> edition of Giornata del Contemporaneo (Contemporary Art Day) – promoted by AMACI- Associazione dei Musei d'Arte Contemporanea Italiani, and realised with the support of the Directorate General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Culture, and with the collaboration of the Directorate General for Public and Cultural Diplomacy of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation*

## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

**Opening day:** Saturday, 7 October 2023, from 11 am to 8 pm

**Opening to the public:** 9-14 October 2023

**Venue:** Silos, Fondazione Pastificio Cerere, Via degli Ausoni 7 - Rome

**Opening hours:** Tuesday to Saturday, 3 pm to 7 pm

**Info:** [www.pastificiocerere.it](http://www.pastificiocerere.it); [info@pastificiocerere.it](mailto:info@pastificiocerere.it); Tel. +39 06 45422960