

Press release

Exhibition title:

Pawel Wasowski. Temples of This Time

Exhibition address:

IAGA Contemporary Art, Strada Cloșca nr. 9-11, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Period:

From Thursday, September 23, 2021, to Saturday, November 6, 2021.

An exhibition prepared by IAGA Contemporary Art, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Curators Ilaria Bignotti and Vera Canevazzi

ONLINE-ONSITE: Augmented Reality Gallery

The exhibition will also be available virtually, thanks to the collaboration between IAGA Contemporary and Vera Canevazzi Art Consulting: Pawel Wasowski's works can also be viewed from users' homes, using augmented reality technology. Wasowski's Augmented Reality Gallery will be available on the website: https://www.vera-artconsulting.com/en/featured_item/temple-of-this-time/

Works presented in the exhibition:

Unpublished works related to the last cycle of the artist's research, Temples

Recent works on the Confluence and Optical Vibes cycles

Pawel Wasowski. Temples Of This Time

The exhibition project dedicated to Pawel Wasowski (Warsaw, 1974) presents to the public a series of new works, entitled Temples, arranged in the spaces of the Gallery, specially designed by the artist between 2020 and 2021, which dialogues with previous works related to *Confluence* cycles and *Optical Vibes*.

The works *Temples*, already from the title, the last cycle of the artist's works, are characterized by a square format, a refined manual creation - as in the case of his entire pictorial work – and by an extraordinary capacity to vary textures and chromatic gradations, based on a modularity established a priori as a design model (Wasowski is also an architect).

The title, followed by a progressive number and an ancient name, evoking the Egyptian gods, includes three elements that the artist places on the table of painting to visualize and interpret, with his language, the meaning of what hit the whole world today, the pandemic: an era of suffering that Wasowski himself associates with the Egyptian ones described in the Bible, the first disasters that God sent upon mankind to punish us for our wickedness and sins.

Starting from this tragic parallelism, the artist then reflected on the ancient and contemporary significance of building temples and monuments to glorify divinity: places where one tries to resume dialogue with the sacred, atone for sin, re-establish a connection with the afterlife, exploring mystery.

And the first sacred places, from the Kaaba to the Mastaba and to the Pyramids, have a square plan. A pure and absolute form: with a dizzying leap forward, Wasowski reaches the squares of the historical and postwar avant-garde, from Malevich to Albers, from Vasarely to Alberto Biasi: the

work of the Polish artist and architect is loaded with all the bold experiments of the twentieth century, and it goes through and honours the verifications and projects, utopias and visions until the meaningful updating of the so-called optical art.

Along with the last cycle of the *Temples*, the works entitled *Confluences* are also exhibited. In this case, it is a work of a rectangular shape, consisting of a composition of squares of different colors, giving the eye the illusion of dynamic and confluent movements: seem fluid, changeable as streams or rivers of rain on the windows or, moreover, it evokes microscopic investigations. It is no coincidence that this cycle of works is called *Confluenze (Confluences)*, as Wasowski perceives it in their most scientific sense: a measure of the number of cells in cell cultures, expressed as a percentage of the area of the culture vessel occupied by cells.

For example, one hundred percent confluence means that the cells have taken up all the available space and that there is no room for further growth. In this direction, the works in this series are enriched with meaning and become much more interesting to the eye, presenting themselves as living, changing organisms, in continuous transformation and disposition due to the dynamics of these plastic units; we could pay homage to another master and "spiritual father" of Wasowski: Victor Vasarely, the inventor of "*Unités plastiques (Plastic units)*": coloured squares of 10 centimetres on each side, inside which a smaller geometric shape of another colour can be inserted, such as a circle, a rectangle or a square. In 1973, Vasarely described, in fact, his plastic units as "homologues of stars, atoms, cells and molecules, but also of grains of sand, pebbles, flowers and leaves": the artist's abstraction it was able to synthesize the generating and metamorphic energy of nature in a geometric form and in its infinite variations and potential dimensions.

Aspects currently found in the personal exhibition, the first in the Gallery, dedicated to the Polish artist and architect Pawel Wasowski.

An exhibition that, to highlight the perceptual and kinetic potential of his research, will be available and can be visited virtually through augmented reality technology, thanks to the synergy between IAGA Contemporary and Vera Canevazzi Art Consulting, a pioneer in exhibition design in A.R. To enjoy works from the comfort of your own spaces, it is not necessary to download any application, but a simple click on AR Gallery: in fact, the three-dimensional works were created with 3D modelling tools, to allow them to be viewed in a format compatible with various devices and internet browsers.

The exhibition can be visited from Tuesday to Saturday, from 14:00 to 19:00.

Admission to the exhibition is free.

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Details and perspectives

IAGA Contemporary Art, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

IAGA Contemporary Art Gallery was founded in 2014, in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, in the Transylvanian region, by Alberto Perobelli, entrepreneur and collector of modern and contemporary art: starting from the acquisition of the works of the great masters of the Italian post-war period after the Second World War, through his activity in Romania, began to deepen the research and languages of young local artists and founded the project of a gallery to give voice to their works, in a careful and original dialogue with artists from other Eastern European countries, without forgetting the young Italians and the middle-aged.

From 2014 until now, the result is an intense activity of the gallery, coordinated by Rosalba di Pierro, Gallery Manager, hosting six exhibitions a year and with an active participation in art fairs in Northeast European countries, with a careful presence and at Italian fairs.

Pawel Wasowski

Pawel Wasowski was born in the 1974, and he's an architect, painter, teacher, and associated art collector of Minsk Mazowiecki. He took his Master Degree in the 1999, and he discussed his doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Architecture of the Warsaw University of Technology, where he actually works.

He also is interested in architecture, History of Architecture, Painting, Sculpting, and Photography. He is mainly interested in the correspondence between architecture and visual arts. With his works he examines the optical illusions, the perception of colour and the its impact on the space.

Among his recent shows:

2018

International Painting Symposium, Mark Rothko Art Centre, Daugavpils, Latvia.

2017

Collective exhibition from the "Warsaw by Art" series, Bohema Gallery in Warsaw, Poland;
"Impression Receipt Point", Bohema Gallery in Warsaw, Poland

2016

Exhibition "Private art" in the Minsk Museum, Republic of Belarus

Curators

Ilaria Bignotti

Born in Brescia, in January 1979, Ilaria Bignotti holds a PhD in Research in Theories and History of the Arts and is the Scientific Curator of the Archives and Artistic Fields; she is an independent curator and art critic.

She is part of the Curatorial Committee of ArteJeans, a project for contemporary arts for the establishment of a Museum-Archive of Jeans in Genoa (from 2020 to the present).

She is part of the Scientific Committee of the MoRE Museum, a museum of rejected and unrealized art projects (since 2011-present).

She is a specialist in the history of modern and contemporary art (19th, 20th and 21st centuries) for the new "Dell'Arte" course by DeAgostini Scuola, lasting five years, dedicated to Higher Secondary Schools and Universities, signed by Ernesto Luciano Francalanci (first edition 2021).

From 2003 to the present, she has designed and organized international exhibition projects, working for long periods and continuously with museums, institutions and foundations, in Italy and abroad.

She is a Visiting Professor and Lecturer at Italian and International Universities.

She is an expert in modern and contemporary art for the Brescia Court.



From 2003 to the present, she has published over a hundred books, including catalogues of modern and contemporary art for clean exhibitions; she has written several essays and contributions in scientific monographs and dedicated catalogues.

Vera Canevazzi

Born in Cremona in 1983, Vera Canevazzi is an art consultant and independent curator.

After her artistic and historical studies at the University of Milan and the Roberto Longhi Foundation for the Study of Art History in Florence, Vera Canevazzi moved to New York, where she collaborates with the Chelsea Art Museum.

The passion for contemporary art becomes a profession in collaboration with the Lia Rumma and Mimmo Scognamiglio galleries and the Pecci Museum.

Subsequently, until 2017, she held the position of director of the Cortesi Gallery (London, Lugano, Milan), since the opening of the first office in Lugano, in 2012. The international domain of the gallery and the continuous relationship with institutions, archives and artists allow her to specialize in the post-war art of World War II.

Since 2018, she has been working as an independent art consultant and advisor. Since 2019, she has been a lecturer at the SantaGiulia Academy of Fine Arts in Brescia, and since 2020 she has been a technical consultant (CTU) of the Milan Tribunal for 20th century art. In 2020, she published the book "Professione Art Consultant" (Profession of Art Consultant), together with Franco Angeli Editore, a guide in the world of art and, more precisely, in the world of artistic consulting. She has given lectures on Art Consulting at the IULM University of Milan, the University of Pavia and the Catholic University of Milan.

Since January 2021, it has inaugurated several services related to the exploitation of augmented reality.