

# FACTORY-ART gallery

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## Andrea Contin As a Clown

Factory-art gallery, Berlin

22<sup>nd</sup> October – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Opening: Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2011, 6.30 p.m.

Catalogue available from the gallery

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An exhibition of **Andrea Contin's** work entitled *As a Clown* will be opening on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2011, at 6.30 p.m. at the **Factory-art Gallery** in **Berlin**, featuring a selection of the most important works of this eclectic Italian artist, from his early career to the late-1990s, right through to the present day. A catalogue will be presented specially for the event containing pictures of the works and the most notable articles written about the artist by critics, artists, writers and friends.

Factory-art will be displaying a selection of Andrea Contin's most important works, a sort of retrospective constituting an initial significant overview of the artist's entire body of work, including video clips, installations, performance art, objects and drawings, whose conceptual intention is expressed through a combination of precision and irony.

Always actively involved in his own works, Contin tackles, with lightness and profundity, themes and archetypes at the very foundations of life, such as death and fighting, either as a ritual or for survival, drawing on powerful kind of primeval energy with a distinctly cathartic and initiatory flavour.

His background is a weave of different experiences in various fields, but always aimed at constructing a person-work based on an existential combination of Art and Life, which is the real subject of his research and experimentation. An instinctively holistic vision pervades the artist's work, as he instils experience into his work in a fusion that subjugates the aesthetic side (nevertheless very precise and powerful) to the expression of emotional content. Each decision, each crossroads, each approach, from music to physical fatigue, from dance to boxing, from teaching to social life, from symbolic experiments to analysis, is actually a means of descending into his own underworld, always taking a different route. Each time there is a way back, renewed in part and driven towards the next descent. Each time there is a danger of falling, chaos, loss and oblivion, but without in actual fact ever losing the thread of his discourse.

There is falling in *Freezer*, a tomb, sacrificial altar and slaughterhouse. Oblivion lies in *Una furtiva lacrima*. There is blind rage in *Il buon andrea*. Defeat in. Revenge in *L'entrée des gladiateur*. But everything is always anchored in irony, the painful need for empathy, concrete hope and powerful energy. There is catharsis and renewal, slow and relentless, running from one work to another in a flux that links them together in a non-chronological order that is actually emotional, energetic and spiritual.

Contin's work, emotionally powerful but never rhetorical, sidesteps rational perception to arrive directly and empathically to the heart of the matter, to the belly, guts and experience of the onlooker, which is added to that of the artist thanks to the power of metaphor and simplicity of a strong but elegant and direct language.

**Andrea Contin** (Padova, 1971), who graduated from the Fine Arts Academy in Bologna, lives and works in Padova, Milan and Venice.

His work has been displayed at numerous personal and collective exhibitions, fairs and awards ceremonies in Italy and abroad. His personal exhibitions include the recent Matello performance produced by the National Centre of Photography in Padova for the Padova Aprile Fotografia 2011 event, the *Deux sexe-maniacs* exhibition with Ben Vautier in Genoa, the Scope Art Show in Basel with the Factory-Art Gallery from Berlin, exhibitions in the Scuderie of Palazzo Moroni in Padova, Circuit Association d'Art Contemporaine in Lausanne, Centro Espositivo Sloveno in Venice and Loft Arte Galleries in Valdagno, Placentia Arte in Piacenza, Arte & Ricambi in Verona and UnimediaModern in Genoa.

Among his collective exhibitions and other shows, it is worth mentioning the recent *Persona in Meno* with the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo in Turin and Fondazione Garrone in Genoa, Viafarini, Brown Project and Antonio Colombo Arte Contemporanea Gallery in Milan, Villa Reale in Monza, Musei Civici agli Eremitani in Padova, Galleria Comunale d'Arte Contemporanea in Monfalcone, Flash Art Museum in Treviso, the *Bigscreen Italia* exhibition at the Yunnan Arts Institute in Kunming, China, Festival Internazionale d'Arte Contemporanea in Ptuj in Slovenia, The Islington Metal Works in London, Kult Fabrik in Munich and Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Belgrade, which bought one of his works for its collection of contemporary Italian video art.

He was also invited to the Premio Furla in Venice and Premio Masaï Art Factory in Milan and was a visiting member of staff at the Scuola Internazionale di Grafica in Venice and Vermont Studio Center in the United States. He has given conferences for, among others, MART in Rovereto and the Associazione Amici del Gabinetto Disegni e Stampe degli Uffizi di Firenze. He was a Painting Professor for the Boston University Art Studio Program in Venice, Visiting Artist at New York University and Visiting Professor at 3DMW\_digit almedia art workshop, again in Venice, Professor of Disegno dal Vero at the Liceo Artistico Orsoline di San Carlo in Milan and Art Professor for rehabilitation purposes in communities for young people with behavioural and emotional disorders for Noi Associazione in Padova.

<b>Exhibition</b>	<b>Andrea Contin – As a Clown</b>
<b>Catalogue texts by:</b>	Luisa Altafini, Guido Bartorelli, Luca Beatrice, Angélique Campens, Tatiana Carelli, Martina Cavallarin, Maria Grazia Ciani, Marco Cingolani, Erica Cook, Lara Facco, Salvatore Fazio, Chris Fitzpatrick, Alessandra Galletta, Raffaele Gavarro, Enrico Gusella, Elisa Mezzetti, Stefania Michelato, Claudio Musso, Fabiola Naldi, Maura Pozzati, Michele Robecchi, Alfredo Sigolo, Tiziano Scarpa.
<b>Exhibition dates</b>	from 22 <sup>nd</sup> October-15 <sup>th</sup> December 2011
<b>Opening</b>	Saturday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2011 at 6.30 p.m.
<b>Location</b>	<b>Factory-art gallery</b> , Mommenstraße 27 - 10629 Berlin (D)
<b>Opening hours</b>	
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