

Notte di Costruzione

Luca Monterastelli

one night show

Wednesday 15 October 2025, 6 - 9 pm
Galleria Lia Rumma | Via Stilicone 19 | MILAN

"A little over a year ago, I was on my way to see Morandi at Palazzo Reale when I found myself circling around the Napoleonic centerpiece. There was something eluding me, something that surfaced from its material but did not immediately return to the eye.

The mystery did not lie in its function as a celebratory object, nor in its being the model of a mad urban vision of a utopian, neoclassical square, full of Latinisms and empire. What escaped me was that this was not a miniature, but the actual square. The exact physical place where the fate of the outside was decided. Not the public square, then, but that table adorned with decorative bronze objects was the true political machine from which emanated the transformations that shape the world.

The same bronze that, on reflection, manages to inscribe two primary properties within its very fiber: its physical reality as a conductor of heat, and its historical role as the chosen embodiment of heroes.

So I began to think about how these table monuments could be translated today, and these forms were born. Optimized to dissipate heat and germinated from the object-based intuitions of Sottsass, Colombo, Mangiarotti's ashtrays, and Mari's centerpieces.

I wanted to condense into these objects the two forces of movement observed so far: the internal, physical one, which excites atoms, makes them vibrate and collide, and the external one, which bursts from the object and stirs stomachs, agitates bodies, inflames the outside.

Both transform this matter of the world, starting from a single hot core, that dense and private point around which the decision-making force of power is formed. I wanted this magical transition to demand a sacrifice in the form of smoke. A minimal yet charged gesture: a decision-making ritual that becomes a sacrifice offered to the altar of authority."

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Luca Monterastelli (Forlimpopoli, 1983) lives and works in Milan. His research explores how forms of narration influence the political attitudes of communities. He has presented solo exhibitions at institutions and galleries such as: Storia di un onest'uomo, Fondazione del Monte, curated by Alessandro Rabottini, Bologna (2024); Weightless, Galleria Lia Rumma, Naples (2021); To Build a Fire, Galleria Lia Rumma, Milan (2017). He has taken part in numerous group exhibitions, including: Cremona Contemporanea, curated by R. Farinotti, Cremona (2025); Neighbours, curated by M. Grunewald, Ruben Kasteel Park, Zemst (B, 2023); Premio Termoli LXIII, Museo MACTE, curated by C. Perrella, Termoli (2023); Horst: State of Play, by Stand van Zaken (Dorزون Architects + Theo de Meyer), ASIAT, Brussels (2023); Afterimage, MAXXI Museum, curated by B. Pietromarchi and A. Rabottini, L'Aquila (2022); Prospettiva Arte Contemporanea, Gallerie d'Italia, Milan (2019); Black Hole, GAMeC, curated by L. Giusti and S. Fumagalli, Bergamo (2018); Ennesima, curated by V. De Bellis, La Triennale, Milan (2015); Codice Italia, 56th Venice Biennale, curated by V. Trione, Venice (2015). He has participated in residency programs such as Triangle France, Marseille (2011), and Résidences Secondaire, Centre d'Art Contemporain Parc Saint Léger. Since 2019, he has been part of the Celine Art Project. His research is documented in the monograph Pardon Façade, curated by A. Rabottini with texts by M. Germann and M. Guidelli-Guidi, published by Lenz Press, Milan (2023). In the same year, he was included in Strata. Italian Art since 2000, curated by V. De Bellis and A. Rabottini, published by Lenz Press with the support of Italian Council X.