

Press Release

Fondazione ICA Milano
presents

Aziz Hazara
Condemnation

Curated by Francesca Recchia

4 May – 15 July 2023
Via Orobica 26, Milan

Press preview: Thursday May 4, from 11 AM to 12.30 PM

Opening: Thursday May 4, from 6.30 PM

Information and press accreditations: carlotta@paolamanfredi.com

From **Thursday 4 May to Saturday 15 July 2023**, Fondazione ICA Milano presents **Condemnation**, the first solo exhibition by the Afghan artist **Aziz Hazara** (1992) in an Italian institution.

The exhibition project, curated by **Francesca Recchia**, presents in the spaces of Fondazione ICA Milano an articulate reflection dedicated to the many decades of war that Afghanistan has gone through and the stereotyped narratives resulting from it. On show for the occasion **an exhibition that involves six works by Aziz Hazara** in the construction of a true multimedia experience, aimed at outlining the complex relationship between religion, society and politics that runs through the daily lives of Afghans.

Condemnation takes shape from a long-standing dialogue between the artist and curator, whose roots lie in a shared desire to **explore and defuse the vocabulary that underpins the narrative of Afghanistan that we are generally accustomed to**. The artist's reflection, which stems from the consequences of the western civilizing mission and twenty years of war on terror, focuses on the use of words and how they have been used to justify the international presence in the country. The very title of the exhibition - condemnation - originates from the ritualistic practice that has seen various Afghan governments condemn massacres and acts of terrorism by cyclically employing the same words.

"With virtually identical words and with invocations to the same God, every government has condemned the tragic loss of life, the horrors caused by the enemies of the state, the blasphemous act of killing innocents" says Francesca Recchia, curator of the exhibition. "Diplomats and spokesmen of international organisations in turn joined the chorus, using the same words and appealing to the same or another god. And so, while everything changes, the words and images remain the same."



The exhibition presented at the Fondazione ICA Milano traces a **path in the artistic production of Aziz Hazara**, in a skillful combination of irony, theological references and pivotal issues that invite the public to question the reassuring banalities to which they are accustomed. From the paper cuttings that make up the work **Condemnation** (2023), we move on to the multi-channel sound installation **Bushka Bazi** (2023), where the artist explores material culture and the transformation of everyday objects in the context of the war on terror, and the archival prints **Chalk Drawings** (2020), where a hand draws a chalk box around black plastic sandals. With **Coming Home** (2021), Aziz Hazara presents four tons of rubbish, abandoned by international troops leaving the Afghan territory after the occupation had ended, in a reflection on the leftovers of war also captured in the archive print **I am looking for you like a drone, my love** (2021). Finally, with the video projection **Takbir** (2021), the artist uses the sound dimension to stage the small forms of everyday rituals that develop in the context of an ongoing conflict.

As part of the artistic research carried out by the Fondazione ICA Milano, the exhibition **Condemnation** traces a path of reflection through the historical recurrences, dramatisation and simplification of otherness that the narration of a conflict can assume.

The solo exhibition **Ministry of Loneliness** by **Rebecca Moccia** opens at the same time as Aziz Hazara's exhibition. The exhibition, presented on the first floor of Fondazione ICA Milano and curated by **Chiara Nuzzi**, is open to the public **from 4 May to 15 July 2023**.

We would like to thank **Banca Intesa Sanpaolo**, the official sponsor of the Foundation, for supporting ICA Milano's programming and activities.

Press contacts

PCM Studio di Paola C. Manfredi

Via Carlo Farini, 70 - 20159 Milan

www.paolamanfredi.com | press@paolamanfredi.com

Carlotta Biffi | carlotta@paolamanfredi.com | +39 345 392 4956

INFORMATION

Aziz Hazara

Condemnation

4 May – 15 July 2023

Curated by Francesca Recchia

ICA Milano | Istituto Contemporaneo per le Arti

Via Orobica 26, 20139 Milano

office@icamilano.it | www.icamilano.it

Hours from Thursday to Saturday – 12 PM to 7 PM

Free entrance

THE ARTIST

Aziz Hazara is an artist working through different media such as video installation, photography, sound and sculpture. His work addresses the relationship between various dichotomies such as proximity and distance, migration and memory, life and death, reality and fiction, war and peace, and many others. The artist aims to address the sensitivity of what it means to live in a war zone, where the body and the landscape are both besieged and inherently on fire. Hazara has exhibited her works in various exhibitions nationally and internationally, including 'New songs for old cities' at Netwerk Aalst, Belgium, NIRIN 22nd Biennale of Sydney in Sydney, Australia, 2020; 'The upper hand', IKOB at the Museum of Contemporary Art Eupen, Belgium, 2020; 'Kharmohra', at the Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilizations (MuCEM), Marseille, France, 2019; among others. She has also participated in several residential programmes such as "Colombo scope" in Colombo Sri Lanka 2021, at the Embassy of Foreign Artists (EoFA), Geneva Switzerland, 2020; at the Camargo Foundation, Cassis France, 2019 and at the international artists association KHOJ, New Delhi India, 2017. He is currently an artist-in-residence at Künstlerhaus Bethanien, a fellow of the KfW Stiftung and the main prize winner of the sixth Future Generation Art Prize hosted by the PinchukArtCentre (2021).

THE CURATOR

Francesca Recchia is an independent researcher and writer who focuses on the geopolitical dimension of cultural processes and the relationship between heritage, politics and creative practices in countries in conflict. She is a founding member, editor and creative director of The Polis Project, Inc. Francesca lived in Afghanistan for ten years (2011-2021) where - among other things - she was the director of the Institute for Afghan Arts and Architecture and a culture specialist at the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. She also helped the Afghan Ministry of Information and Culture establish the Advisory Committee for Intangible Heritage. With Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Lorenzo Tugnoli, he has written two books: The Little Book of Kabul and Afghan Interiors.

FONDAZIONE ICA MILANO

Fondazione ICA Milano - Istituto Contemporaneo per le Arti is a private non-profit foundation dedicated to contemporary arts and culture, research and experimentation, in which different forces and types of protagonists of the art world converge artists, collectors, professionals, enthusiasts.

Directed by Alberto Salvadori, ICA is the first Contemporary Arts Institute outside the Anglo-Saxon world, located in the former industrial area of Via Orobica in Milan. The Institute's activity takes the form of an offer to the city and the public, where sharing and participation are the key words to understand its attitude. Exhibitions, art publishing, ceramics, cinema, performances, music, literature, seminar activities for dissemination, training, education, and much more will build a path marked by interdisciplinarity and transmediality. Expression of a precise 'Milanese' identity that historically links private initiative with the institutional dimension, ICA finds inspiration in the culture of giving back, that is, giving back to share.

THE EXHIBITIONS

- Apologia della storia – The Historian’s Craft, curated by Alberto Salvadori and Luigi Fassi (25th January – 15th March 2019);
- Hans Josephson, curated by Alberto Salvadori and Galleria dell’Ariete. A documented story, curated by Caterina Toschi, first edition of Gallery Focus, the project exploring the story of Italian galleries from the Fifties to today (24th March – 2nd June 2019);
- Equivalences – new work by Julian Stair; Towards New Canons, ceramics and contemporary art in Great Britain, curated by Tommaso Corvi-Mora, featuring in Ceramics, with which ICA intends exploring the use of ceramics as artistic medium (21st June – 15th September 2019);
- Books and Others, the first edition of an event dedicated to art books and visual culture that will become an annual appointment (27-29 September 2019);
- MASBEDO – Why Frontiers Change, curated by Alberto Salvadori (12th October – 10th November 2019);
- Simone Forti. Vicino al Cuore / Close to the Heart, curated by Chiara Nuzzi and Alberto Salvadori and
- When the Towel Drops, Vol. I | Italy by the collective Radha May, curated by Claudia D’Alonzo (29th November 2019 – 2nd February 2020);
- Arte Povera e “Multipli”, Torino 1970 – 1975, curated by Elena Re (13th December 2019 – 2nd February 2020);
- Charles Atlas. OMINOUS, GLAMOROUS, MOMENTOUS, RIDICULOUS, curated by Alberto Salvadori (3rd – 26th March 2021);
- Trovate Ortensia, curated by Il Colorificio – (6th May – 24th June 2021);
- Michael Anastassiades, Cheerfully Optimistic About the Future, curated by Alberto Salvadori (September 8th 2021 – January 9th, 2022)
- Simone Fattal, A breeze over the Mediterranean, curated by Alberto Salvadori with Andrea Viliani, Stella Bottai, Laura Mariano (September 8th 2021 – January 9th, 2022);
- Olympia Scarry. White Noise. With contributions by Allora & Calzadilla and Stephen O’Malley (18th January – 6th March 2022);
- Christine Safa. C’era l’acqua, ed io da sola, curated by Alberto Salvadori (18th January – 6th March 2022);
- THE OTHER: A FAMILIAR STORY, videoinstallation by Maria D. Rapicavoli (18th January – 6th March 2022);
- Miriam Cahn, GEZEICHNET, curated by Alberto Salvadori and Luigi Fassi (18th March – 28th May 2022);
- Irma Blank. BLANK, curated by Johana Carrier and Joana P. R. Neves (9th June – 22nd July 2022);
- Books & Others, second edition of the event dedicated to art books and visual culture (16-18 September 2022);
- Annette Kelm, Die Bücher, curated by Alberto Salvadori and Chiara Nuzzi (16 September - 15 October 2022);
- Costanza Candeloro, MY SKIN-CARE, MY STRENGTH, curated by Chiara Nuzzi (16 September – 23 December 2022);
- Small Fixations, curated by Chiara Nuzzi (28 October – 23 December 2022);
- How far should we go?, curated by Rossella Farinotti (28 October – 23 December 2022);
- Reenactments (Bacchus), curated by Alberto Salvadori (28 October – 23 December 2022);
- Riccardo Benassi. Morestalgia, curated by Alberto Salvadori (24 January – 18 March 2023);
- Chemutai Ng’ok. An impression that may possibly last forever, curated by Chiara Nuzzi (24 January – 18 March 2023).



• Nathalie Provosty. What A Fool Ever To Be Tricked Into Seriousness, curated by Alberto Salvadori (24 March - 22 April 2023)