

UNA

SPAZIO
LEONARDO


GENERALI LEONARDO
AGENZIA MILANO ASSICURAZIONI
LIBERAZIONE

JOSEP MAYNOU
SE NON TI PIACE CAMBIALO

The second appointment of Spazio Leonardo 2024 exhibition program is ***Se non ti piace cambialo*** (If you don't like it, change it), a solo show by Spanish artist Josep Maynou (1980, Barcelona), who will be presenting a new series of hand-made carpets in wool and recycled clothes.

Josep Maynou's multidisciplinary approach is both performative and object based. It comes together as a form of contemporary storytelling, a fictional take on everyday life in the form of humorous ideas that expand onto his objects, which tell an individual and collective story.

The series of *Suits carpets* presented on the long wall of the *gallery* of Spazio Leonardo belong to a wider series of rugs produced in Morocco, where Maynou has been traveling since 2014, collecting fabrics and old clothes from the markets, streets and friends to take them to the small mountain villages outside of Marrakech. There, he is able to use the Boucherouite technique to produce his works by learning from and working alongside the women weavers in their homes. From this self-awareness of a position of inherent privilege, Maynou works with artisanal processes of production in the rural Moroccan Middle Atlas mountains, where he is no longer the ethnographer, the exporter of authenticity, or the agent of the exotizing gaze.

The iconography characterizing Maynou's carpets often refers to global pop culture, which is transformed by the interpretation of the artisans in the process of translating ideas and sketches into a textile outcome.

The series of *Suits carpets*, exhibited for the first time in this exhibition at Spazio Leonardo, includes seven colorful carpets presenting suits with different cuts and shapes and mirrors the artist's relationship with this item of clothing, traditionally a symbol of masculinity, leadership, office work, formality and composure.

Through their two-dimensional translation onto upcycled, second hand textile supports realised with a traditional, artisanal technique, the suits presented by Josep aim to deconstruct their physical and symbolic existence. They become here flawed shapes, unexpected mix of colors associated with different idealized personas. **The titles of the carpets (e.g. Mx Samba, Mrs. Sucata, Mr. Zumar) are persons' names declined for gender (masculine, feminine and neuter),** embodying the inevitable negotiation of questions like authenticity, social status, gender, sustainability versus mass production, analog versus digital and its impact on our standardized imagery and society.

The title of the exhibition ***Se non ti piace cambialo [If you don't like it, change it]*** is a universal call to change and regeneration and suggests the possibility to decide our own future, changing what we don't like of our own life (not just our clothes, but also our job, our vision of things, our opinions etc).

Exhibition:

May 13 – September 20 2024

from Monday to Friday:

09:00 am – 6:00 pm

Spazio Leonardo

via della Liberazione 16/a, 20124 Milan

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Josep Maynou (b.1980, Barcelona) studied Fine Arts at UB (Barcelona), Faculdade Belas Artes Porto (Porto) and Middlesex University (London).

Past solo shows include: Chuletas, Bombon Projects, Barcelona (2023); Point of light Papitu, curated by Samuel Leuenberger, Centro Parraga, Murcia (2022); Self Bazar, UNA, Piacenza (2021); 13, Idealfrühstück, Paris (2019); LE LUCKY, HVW8, Berlin (2019); Populaire, Lehman&Silva, Porto (2019); Leisure, Bombon Projects, Barcelona (2017); Thing1, Thing2, Broken Dimanche, Berlin (2017); Things: To do, Beverly's, NYC (2017) or The Ninja from Marrackech, Galerie Suvi Lehtinen, Berlin (2015).

Recent group shows include: Ring Ring Ring, Pal Project, Paris; In Praise of Boredom, BWA Warszawa, Poland; F.I.R.E. - Flames In Readymade Entertainment. Longtermhandstand, Budapest (HU). Worlds Within Worlds. Curated by Jelena Tamindzija Donnart, KUNSTHALLE - CCA Andratx, Andratx (ES); MOMAD Museum of Modern Art Dubrovnik, Dubrovnik (HR) and Prsten Gallery - HDLU Croatian Association of Fine Artists, Zagreb (HR), Ya Laytani-I Wish. Curated by Peter Bencze & Réka Lörincz, Salalah (OM), THIS MUST BE THE PLACE. Curated by Sofia Lemos, L+S Projects, Porto; Telephone. OGR, Turin; Textus ex Machina. Cu, aqb PROJECT SPACE, Budapest; Hunter of World, Salts, Basel; Supersimetrica, Matadero, Madrid; A Lovers Discord, Moca, London. Recent performances include ENSEMBLE, survivre maintenant, Palais de Tokyo, Paris; TIME, The Institute for Endotic Research, Berlin; Pane Per Poveri, Laatrak, Athens; Making Public Program, Fundació Tapies, Barcelona.

His artworks entered various public collections, among them the MACBA - Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona.