

UNA

SPAZIO
LEONARDO


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LIBERAZIONE

Riccardo Giacconi
STORYBOARD

Spazio Leonardo is pleased to announce the opening of **Storyboard**, a solo exhibition by Riccardo Giacconi (1985, San Severino Marche, MC). Giacconi is a visual artist and documentarian who uses a diversity of media such as video, installation, radio and performance to explore and activate forms of storytelling.

In recent years Riccardo has been employing plastic plates to make large-scale colored curtains. Performing as narrative devices that come alive with characters and iconographic references from his research, these curtains disclose an interest in evoking stories through the installation format.

Within the exhibition at Spazio Leonardo the artist presents four newly-produced large-scale curtains, conceived as storyboards for a series of stories written through an AI-based text generator. Giacconi's recent practice has developed a significant attention to the relationship between art and science, bringing him to develop a long-term project around the notion of animation, with the aim to merge the ancient tradition of marionette theatre and the latest studies on robotics and artificial intelligence.

The project stems from the long-standing collaboration with a Milan-based institution devoted to manipulating, animating and giving life to objects: the Compagnia Marionettistica Carlo Colla & Figli, Europe's oldest and most famous marionette company still in business. Already at the centre of Giacconi's recent film *Diteggiatura* (2021), the company owns a huge archive of wooden heads, which is evoked in one of the works in the exhibition.

Composed of a series of plastic pixels, the curtains created for Spazio Leonardo are visual catalogues of the recurring topics in Giacconi's practice: Doppelgänger, masks, costumes, animation. Each of them is the storyboard of a narrative written by an automatic text generator – i.e. a machine built to write as a human being. Departing from brief inputs from the essay *On the Marionette Theatre*, the artificial intelligence has generated stories bordering on the tragicomic, which come to life on the curtains in cartoon-like form, through abstract and geometric patterns, or which are transcribed directly onto such large media through a specifically designed font.

Exhibition: 4 July 2022 – 21 October 2022
Monday-Friday: 9:00am – 6:00pm

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Riccardo Giacconi (1985, San Severino Marche, MC) studied Visual Arts at IUAV University (Venice) and obtained a PhD from the Leiden University (NL). His work has been featured internationally in several museums and institutions, including: Triennale (Milan); Lentos Kunstmuseum (Linz); Kunstpavillion (Innsbruck); Grazer Kunstverein (Graz); ar/ge Kunst (Bozen), FRAC Champagne-Ardenne (Reims), MAC (Belfast), WUK Kunsthalle Exnergasse (Vienna); MAMbo (Bologna) and Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo (Torino). Riccardo was artist in residence at Künstlerhaus Büchsenhausen (Innsbruck), Centre international d'art et du paysage (Vassivière), lugar a dudas (Cali), MACRO (Rome) and La Box (Bourges). His films and videos were screened at the following international Festivals: Venice International Film Festival; New York Film Festival; International Film Festival Rotterdam; Lo schermo dell'arte Florence; Visions du Réel, and FID Marseille International Film Festival, where he was awarded by the Prize of the International Competition in 2015. Among the private and public collections which acquired his work: Museo del Novecento, Milan; GAMeC, Bergamo; Agi Verona, Contemporaneo / Contemporanee, Verona University; Nctm Collection, Milan; FRAC Champagne Ardenne. In 2007 he co-founded the collective Blauer Hase with which he manages the periodical publication Paesaggio and the Helicotrema festival. In autumn 2022 Riccardo Giacconi will present a solo show at Kunstraum Lakeside, Klagenfurt (AU).