

**ART BASEL  
CLAUDIO PARMIGGIANI  
13 - 16 JUNE, 2019  
BOOTH M26**



On the occasion of Art Basel 2019, Simon Lee Gallery is pleased to present three new works from Claudio Parmiggiani's iconic series of 'Delocazione', which has been a key part of his practice since the 1970s.

The work of Claudio Parmiggiani is concerned with themes of absence, fragmentation and silence. Deeply personal meditations on life and death, the power of reflection and feelings of the sacred are realised in sculptures, photographic and painted images, and in his signature 'Delocazione'. These haunting works use powder, soot and fire to create shadows and imprints on board, resulting in a sense of absence while at the same time making manifest an unmistakable human presence, tangible, yet not corporeal.

In these new Delocazione, Parmiggiani explores the enduring influence that 20<sup>th</sup> century Italian painter Giorgio Morandi had on his work. From 1958-1960 Parmiggiani studied at the Istituto di Belle Arti di Modena. During this time he frequented Morandi's studio in the Via Fondazza in Bologna, working as the artist's assistant. In one of Parmiggiani's recent works, ghostly impressions of earthenware pots, jugs and vases, lined up in rows, pay tribute to Morandi, whose still-life paintings continue to resonate in his former apprentice's oeuvre. In another, a collection of oil lanterns are placed rhythmically along two shelves, their spectral frames a reminder of the fire that forged each of them.

A further work explores Parmiggiani's fascination with books. Depicting rows of shelves in a library, the ghostly imprint of books encapsulate a dichotomy that lies at the heart of the artist's practice, concerned as it is with the inevitable passage of time. Stories, in any guise, are ephemeral, handed down through generations, subject to the vagaries of time and the disposition of the storyteller. Yet the written word immortalises what may seem fleeting, as the artist's hand consecrates the transient method of the Delocazione's production.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **About Claudio Parmiggiani**

Claudio Parmiggiani was born in Luzzara, Italy in 1943 and lives and works in Parma, Italy. Parmiggiani's work has been widely exhibited in international museums and collections. His work has been shown six times at the Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy (1972, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1995 and 2015). A retrospective of his practice between 1960 and 1995 was held at the Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Geneva, Switzerland (1995). Recent solo exhibitions have been held at the Frist Art Museum, Nashville, TN (2019); Simon Lee Gallery, London, UK (2017);

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Accademia di Francia Villa Medici, Rome, Italy (2015); Palais des Beaux Arts - BOZAR, Brussels, Belgium (2013); Collège des Bernardins, Paris, France (2008); The Musée des Beaux-arts de Nantes, Nantes, France (2007); The Grand Palais, Paris, France (2005); Galleria d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, Bologna, Italy (2003); Museum of Art, Tel-Aviv, Israel (2003) and Musée Fabre, Montpellier, France (2002). His work is held in the collections of Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Museo de Bellas Artes of Havana, Havana, Cuba; The National Gallery of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland; Mamco - musée d'art moderne et contemporain, Geneva, Switzerland; Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France; François Pinault Foundation, Venice, Italy and Museo del Novecento, Milan, Italy.

#### **About Simon Lee Gallery**

Founded in Mayfair, London in 2002, Simon Lee Gallery represents artists of diverse generations whose practices range from sculpture and painting to video and photography and who share a broad interest in an exploration of the conceptual. Aiming to provide a significant international audience for its artists, the gallery also regularly punctuates its programme with historical exhibitions and curated group shows, which present shifts in contemporary art practice and thought, whilst broadening the dialogue with artists outside of the gallery's core programme. In addition to its UK activity, in 2012 the gallery opened a space in Hong Kong, helping to introduce its artists to a wider public in Asia, with a fully independent programme. In 2014, Simon Lee Gallery opened an office and private viewing space. In 2017, the New York space was re-launched with an independent year-round programme of exhibitions and events, showcasing the work of emerging and established artists in dynamic group and solo exhibitions.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter: @SimonLeeGallery  
[www.simonleegallery.com](http://www.simonleegallery.com)

Image: Claudio Parmiggiani, *Senza Titolo*, 2019, Smoke and soot on board, 92 x 302 x 6.8 cm (36 1/4 x 118 7/8 x 2 5/8 in.) Courtesy of the artist and Simon Lee Gallery.

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