

# BLOUINARTINFO

## Claudio Parmiggiani at Simon Lee Gallery



Claudio Parmiggiani's solo exhibition at Simon Lee Gallery.  
(Courtesy of Simon Lee Gallery and Kitmin Lee Photo)

Italian artist Claudio Parmiggiani is currently holding his first solo show in Hong Kong at Simon Lee Gallery. Known for his connections to both Arte Povera and conceptual art, Parmiggiani's practice often evokes universal themes of time, absence, and memory while drawing on classical references and making use of fire — specifically, the smoke and ashes produced by the combustion of tyres in his *Delocazioni* series, for instance.

BLOUIN ARTINFO caught up with the artist to delve a little deeper into the origins of his work and his views on the “contemporary” art of our times.

**Your *Delocazioni* works consist of the negative outlines in soot of objects set on fire, often bookshelves, windows, and curtains — the vestiges of tranquil, domestic objects, whose traces are rendered in a rather violent way. Did you see this process of combustion as fundamentally iconoclastic, or rather a tribute to the still life tradition of predecessors like Giorgio Morandi?**

Fire comes from a distant place – millennia of flames blazing in the mind. It comes from tragedy, from Homer. Fire lies within the entire history of painting. As you stand before an artwork you can only remain silent, as if you were watching a fire. Whenever I've used fire it has been to work with a different medium: ash and smoke. In these works, the smoke sculpts, leaving not an outline, but another dimension – almost a fourth dimension. Smoke as the blood of the flame. Making in one moment what time makes in a hundred years. Speeding up the action of time.