

PRESS RELEASE

***Fabio Viale: Marble* (2 July – 1 August 2011)**

Marble opens at Garage Center for Contemporary Culture on 2 July 2011, presenting ten artworks in the courtyard and entrance space by the Italian sculptor, Fabio Viale. He challenges the formal preconceptions of sculpture by presenting the classic material of marble as hyper-realistic tattooed body parts, boats, paper airplanes or tires.

Working exclusively with Carrara marble – a tradition that spans the history of Italian sculpture – Viale works his medium to take on the character of other materials, so marble instead resembles Styrofoam, paper and rubber. To further the illusion, some of Viale's works carry distinct odors, characteristic of the materials that they mimic – his automobile tires, twisted into a sign of infinity, have a distinct smell of rubber.

Viale cites human memory and history as inspirations within his work. Several works are called *Souvenirs*, recalling the historical destruction of well-known works of art by vandalism committed in the past. *Souvenir Pietà* refers to the damage inflicted on Michelangelo's original statue of Christ and the Virgin Mary in 1972, St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, Italy. Here the artist has turned his figure into a 'souvenir' to remind us of this past act of violence.

History and memory are further explored in Viale's works, *Yours will be Ours*, *Souvenir*, *David* and *Kuros*. He creates sculptures from fragments of historically important and famous statues, such as Michelangelo's *David* and the torso of the ancient god, Kuros, which are then covered in 'tattoos'. These 'tattoos', inspired by a trip to Russia, are indicative of labor camp and prison tattoo designs, featuring inscriptions like 'God is with Us', 'I'll Die Soon', 'The Sickle and the Hammer', as well as winged skulls, the Golitha, the cross and other religious and mythic symbols

In addition, Garage's entrance hall will feature *Ahgalla*, a marble motorboat weighing nearly half a ton, which floats in a pool constructed specifically for its display. The artist has previously navigated the boat through the waterways of Carrara, Italy; the Po and Tiber rivers, Italy; Venice, Italy, during the 52nd Biennale; the Kronwerk Strait, St Petersburg, Russia.

Further information

Garage Center for Contemporary Culture is a major non-profit international arts space based in Moscow, dedicated to exploring and developing contemporary culture, which opened in 2008. There are two distinct areas of programming—to bring important international modern and contemporary art and culture to Moscow and to raise the profile of Russian contemporary culture and encourage a new generation of Russian artists. These are explored through a series of exhibitions ranging from major surveys of important collections to single-artist retrospectives or group exhibitions. Garage also hosts a strong program of special on-site events, including talks, film screenings, workshops, performances and creative activities for children. Garage's space includes galleries, open exhibition spaces, courtyard, cafe, kids space, purpose-built auditorium and media room, all designed by award-winning architect Jamie Fobert.

Garage will be relocating from its current space – the former 20th century Bakhmetevsky Bus Garage – to a new site in a historic pavilion inside Gorky Park, Moscow. Opening to the public in 2012, the space will be developed to include international standard gallery spaces, open exhibition areas, children's creative spaces, education and learning facilities, a cafe and a shop.

Garage is a project of The Iris Foundation, founded by Daria Zhukova.

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Mon – Thurs 11.00 - 21.00
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