

Christoph Keller

Data Error – Roma Antichità

RESEARCH EXHIBITION

16.02. – 14.04.2023

Bibliotheca Hertziana
Max Planck Institute for Art History
Via Gregoriana 30, Rome



EXHIBITION OPENING HOURS: **MON-FRI 9:30-18:30**
to register email: freiberg@biblhertz.it

CURATED BY LARA DEMORI

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

JOHANNES RÖLL, FOTOTECA BHMPI
TATJANA BARTSCH, FOTOTECA BHMPI
FONDAZIONE CADEL, ROME
BERLIN PROGRAMME FOR ARTISTIC RESEARCH
GERMAN ACADEMY ROME VILLA MASSIMO

BIBLIOTHECA HERTZIANA
MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR ART HISTORY
Via Gregoriana 28, 00187 Rome
MARA FREIBERG SIMMEN
T: +39 06 69993 460

IMAGE Christoph Keller: *Data Error – Roma Antichità* (2018-08-24 at 16:24.57), 2021, Archival pigment print on Canson Velin Museum Rag, framed ca. 28,7 x 37,2 x 3 cm

From February 16 until April 14, 2023, the Bibliotheca Hertziana hosts the exhibition *Data Error – Roma Antichità* by visual and conceptual artist Christoph Keller from Berlin.

In 2018/19 Keller was invited by the Bibliotheca Hertziana as the institute's first Arts Fellow to work on his *Anarcheology Museum* project as a contribution to the research initiative Rome Contemporary.

WORK DESCRIPTION

Data Error – Roma Antichità is a series of framed digital collages installed on exhibition walls under the Mannerist frescos of Palazzo Zuccari. The collages were composed by superimposing two antagonistic elements: high-resolution scans of black-and-white photographs from the "Roma Antichità" section of the Bibliotheca Hertziana's Photographic Collection mounted on archival cardboard, and screenshots of the artist's computer crashing under the weight of the files – something it did often during his research on the photographs.

As the title of the series suggests, the images invoke a conflation or collapse of different temporalities and, by extension, of different concepts of history. Analog photography was a crucial medium in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; the black-and-white photographs represented not only a depiction but also a reification of Roman Antiquity. The culture of this ancient world has only been gradually rediscovered since the Renaissance, becoming a central point of reference for the neoclassical movement since the 18th century. Western historical narratives commonly refer to a founding myth based on Greco-Roman Antiquity – a myth to which conventional notions of art, as well as of Art History, remain tied even today.

Keller's images show a post-analog collapse and disintegration of this continuity by virtue of a technical glitch: the rupture of a personal computer system. The collages bring together two adverse and irreconcilable time periods, and in doing so herald the advent of a new era, in which the timeline of history can no longer be thought of only as horizontal, but also as vertical, diagonal, and perpendicular.

(Christoph Keller)

In the adjacent "Sala del Disegno" of the Palazzo Zuccari, Christoph Keller presents some of his books, including his new publication *Dopostoria*, 2023, as well as the films *Anarcheology*, 2014, and *Storni Morti*, 2018 (produced during his time as Rome Prize Fellow 2017/18 and with the support of the German Academy Rome Villa Massimo).

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

His works are present in many international exhibitions like the Lyon Biennial, 2011; Klimakapseln, Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, 2010; the Bienal del Fin del Mundo, Argentina, 2009; Bienal do Mercosul, Porto Alegre, Brazil, 2009; Dreamtime, Musée des Abattoirs in Toulouse, 2009; Artfocus, Jerusalem, 2008; Made in Germany, Hannover, 2007; the solo-exhibition Observatorium at the Kunstverein Braunschweig, 2008; LIAF Biennial, Lofoten, Norway, 2011; Sharjah Biennale, 2017; Anarcheologie at Centre Pompidou Paris, 2017; or Il mondo in Fine at the Galeria Nazionale di Arte in Rome, 2019.

Æther – between cosmology and consciousness, 2011 at Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris was his first large-scale artistic and curatorial project in an institutional context. He received several awards and grants for his work like the Ars Viva-Preis for art and science, the P.S.1 studio-grant in New York, Residences Internationales aux Recoillets, Paris; BM Suma in Istanbul; Capacete in Sao Paulo; German Academy Rome Villa Massimo, and Villa Aurora in Los Angeles.

FOYER - FROM THE LEFT TO RIGHT:

Data Error – Roma Antichità (2018-02-27 at 10:42.32), 2021, Archival pigment print on Canson Velin Museum Rag, framed ca. 37,2 x 28,7 x 3 cm
Temple of Venus and Roma, seen from the Colosseum

Data Error – Roma Antichità (2018-04-06 at 15:05.04), 2021, Archival pigment print on Canson Velin Museum Rag, framed ca. 28,7 x 37,2 x 3 cm
Roman Forum: Temple of Saturn from behind, Arch of Severus

CORRIDOIO D'ERCOLE - CLOCKWISE FROM THE LEFT:

Data Error – Roma Antichità (2018-08-24 at 16:24.57), 2021, Archival pigment print on Canson Velin Museum Rag, framed ca. 28,7 x 37,2 x 3 cm
Roman Forum with the Arch of Severus

Data Error – Roma Antichità (2018-02-26 at 23:10.41), 2021, Archival pigment print on Canson Velin Museum Rag, framed ca. 37,2 x 28,7 x 3 cm
Via Appia Antica

Data Error – Roma Antichità (2018-08-08 at 14:27.48), 2021, Archival pigment print on Canson Velin Museum Rag, framed ca. 37,2 x 28,7 x 3 cm
Roman Forum: Temple of Antoninus and Faustina

Data Error – Roma Antichità (2017-12-20 at 10:39.50), 2021, Archival pigment print on Canson Velin Museum Rag, framed ca. 28,7 x 37,2 x 3 cm
Colosseum, detail

Data Error – Roma Antichità (2018-08-25 at 23:34.53), 2021, Archival pigment print on Canson Velin Museum Rag, framed ca. 28,7 x 37,2 x 3 cm
Roman Forum: view over the Capitoline Hill

Data Error – Roma Antichità (2018-11-09 at 13:54.12), 2021, Archival pigment print on Canson Velin Museum Rag, framed ca. 37,2 x 28,7 x 3 cm
Roman Forum: Temple of Antoninus and Faustina and Temple of Romulus

Data Error – Roma Antichità (2018-02-05 at 21:03.11), 2021, Archival pigment print on Canson Velin Museum Rag, framed ca. 37,2 x 28,7 x 3 cm
Roman Forum: view from the Capitoline Hill over the Temple of Saturn and the Arch of Severus. The church of Santi Luca e Martina in the background

Data Error – Roma Antichità (2018-11-04 at 17:25.29), 2021, Archival pigment print on Canson Velin Museum Rag, framed ca. 28,7 x 37,2 x 3 cm
Roman Forum: Colosseum and Arch of Constantine

SALA DEL DISEGNO - VIDEOS

Storni Morti, 2018, HD-video, 15 min, sound, colour, Italian with English subtitles*

Anarcheology, 2014, HD-video, 12 min, no sound, black and white, English with Italian subtitles*

(* thanks to the German Academy Rome Villa Massimo for supporting the subtitling in 2017/ 2018)