

COSE BIZZARRE

Jermay Michael Gabriel
Solo exhibition curated by Elisa Giuliano
7 November, 2024- 31 January, 2025
Opening 7 November, 6pm - 9pm

“I am what time, circumstance, history, have made of me, certainly, but I am, also, much more than that. So we are all.”

James Baldwin, *Notes on a Native Son*

ArtNoble Gallery is pleased to present *Cose Bizzarre*, Jermay Michael Gabriel's (Addis Abeba, 1997) first solo exhibition in Italy, curated by Elisa Giuliano.

Cose Bizzarre is an exhibition that as a whole exposes how visions and representations of people and places as radically “other” than ourselves depend mostly on power relations that are often difficult to break or reverse. Jermay Michael Gabriel reminds us through his works, and through his approach to artistic research, of the fatigue involved in reversing the gaze from the margins, as the power relations that constituted them can seem ultimately indelible. We can thus still aspire to a critical understanding of these power relations and our role within them. Jermay Michael Gabriel stimulates and instigates this precious understanding by actively and materially intervening in the visual paradigms that, though created in the past, continue to fuel dominant ideologies in the present.

Cose Bizzarre takes its name from an expression often used by the voiceover of Istituto Luce documentaries to describe the objects, clothing, houses, rituals and customs of the indigenous peoples encountered in Ethiopia and Eritrea by Italians. The word “bizarre” has an uncertain etymology, but historically it has represented the strangeness, originality, and extravagance of “wild”-agile, quick, energetic, and unpredictable thinking, like a fairy that inspires awe.

Jermay Michael Gabriel's works in fact expose a set of codes that aim to transcend the paradigms of history, revealing instead a genealogy that is more universal, but also deeply personal. Through their play with absence and presence, with form and being-formed, with doing and being-done, the works presented in *Cose Bizzarre* show how sensory perception and cognition are situated both materially and historically, venturing, however, to provide information about the future through a critical understanding of the past and present.

From *Cose Bizzarre* by Elisa Giuliano

JERMAY MICHAEL GABRIEL

Born in 1997 in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia.
Lives and works in Milan, Italy.

Jermay Michael Gabriel is an Italian-Ethiopian-Eritrean trans-disciplinary artist. His work is based on an experimental, and often extreme, effort to resist the permanence and elusiveness of the Italian colonial archive through the subversion of its symbols of power. Gabriel's artistic practice embraces both sound and contemporary art. He starts from the assumption that spaces at the intersection of multiple forms of marginalisation, visibility or representation do not produce liberation. Colonial trauma does not have a linear trajectory, nor does memory. It sinks into the fibres without a temporal pattern and crosses generations, going back and forth between past, present and future. Gabriel's process chronicles the multifaceted dimensions of these journeys, exorcising trauma through sound, installation and performance, embracing cultural legacies and collective memories as a form of healing.

Jermay Michael Gabriel is also a member of the music duo Plethor X together with sound designer Giovanni Isgrò. He is also the founder and director of BHMM (Black History Month Milan) and the founder of Kirykou (Milan). His work has been presented in various biennials and exhibitions including Malta Biennale (2024), Lagos Biennale (2024), Haus der Kulturen der Welt Berlin, Museo delle Civiltà di Roma and Museo delle Culture di Milano.



የካቲት 12 - Yekatit 12 (2022), multi-media installation, 300 x 300 x 300 cm, courtesy the artists and Haus der Kulturen der Welt - Berlin



ሜዲተራኔክ - *Mediterraneo* (2024), 3D PLA printing, screen printed wood, charcoal, video projection, site-specific installation for Malta Biennale, courtesy the artist and Malta Biennale

CONTACTS

ArtNoble Gallery
Via Ponte di Legno 9, Milano, 20134
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Exhibition Dates:
7 November, 2024 - 31 January, 2025

Opening Hours
Wednesday - Saturday, 12:00 - 18:30
or by appointment

For further press enquiries:
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Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/artnoble_gallery/
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