



PRESS RELEASE

"Tra Madre e Figlio" – Simon Berger

April 4 – May 4, 2025

Church of the Artists, Rome

The London-based gallery **Cris Contini Contemporary** is pleased to announce the new exhibition by **Simon Berger**, *"Tra Madre e Figlio"*, which will take place from **April 4 to May 4, 2025**, at the **Church of the Artists in Rome**, a location rich in history and art. Curated by **Pasquale Lettieri and Sandra Sanson**, the exhibition offers a compelling journey into the symbolic and visual universe of one of the most innovative artists in contemporary art.

The **opening event** will be held on **Friday, April 4, at 5:00 PM**, in the presence of distinguished guests, including **Bishop Antonio Staglianó, Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, Fulvio Granocchia, Cristian Contini**, and the two curators. The evening will feature a **musical performance by a pianist and a soprano**, with a presentation by **Paola Zanoni**.

At the heart of the exhibition, coordinated by **Project Manager Sara Galardi**, are two monumental works, **Virgin Mary** and **Christ**, both created in **2023**. These extraordinary **200 x 200 cm** pieces, made of **wood and laminated safety glass**, depict the faces of the **Virgin Mother and Christ**.

Simon Berger's artistic expression delves into a **profound reflection on the perception of reality and the symbolic power of images**. Regarding the exhibition's theme, **Bishop Staglianó** provides a crucial interpretative key:

"What exists 'between' Mother and Son? Generativity, this powerful reality that allows the other to exist through love. The artistic gesture proposed here seeks to educate the gaze toward the profound reality present in every authentic human relationship. Without generativity, everything is false—mere fiction, simulation. Beyond and within the masks we wear, we must learn to 'perceive faces.' This requires an openness of the heart, a purification of the eyes to receive a new light. The faces of Mary and Christ are this light—piercing through the cracks of a society reluctant to generate through love, yet eager to produce hallucinating simulations."

This reflection aligns perfectly with **Berger's artistic approach**, where **his innovative technique transforms glass into a portal to the depths of human existence**. Every **crack and fracture** in the glass becomes a window into the soul, challenging the viewer's perception and understanding of reality.

The monumental works **Virgin Mary** and **Christ** find a natural setting in the **Church of the Artists**, a historic venue that has long been a meeting point for **art, spirituality, and contemplation**. Berger's deep **aesthetic and conceptual exploration** seamlessly merges with the sacred and inspiring atmosphere of this space.

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The two works are presented in a **site-specific and immersive installation**. The self-supporting glass panels are arranged in such a way that they create a **pathway**, guiding the viewer through a labyrinth of fragmented images—only fully recognizable when seen in their **overlapping perspective**. This visual interplay **invites reflection on the process of perception**, encouraging the mind to reconstruct meanings and reassemble images while moving through the space.

The experience is enriched by the **transparency of the material**, which interacts with **light and depth**, allowing for **multiple, layered interpretations**. The **cracks and breaks in the glass** are not merely aesthetic elements but a **visual language that conveys both fragility and strength**. As **Sandrine Welte** observes in her text dedicated to the artist, Berger's work **transcends conventional "beauty" to embrace the sublime**, transforming destruction into an **act of profound and meaningful creation**.

In **2023**, these works were presented at the **Civic Museum of Sansepolcro** in the exhibition "*The Doors of Perception*", which received widespread acclaim for its ability to **challenge traditional visual perception**. Now, with "*Tra Madre e Figlio*", Simon Berger takes this exploration even further, delving into the **relationship between mother and son** as a **symbol of creation and revelation**, and into the deeper realms of human thought.

Art critic **Pasquale Lettieri** emphasizes that Berger's work **transcends the boundaries between the material and the immaterial**, giving life to artworks that not only challenge vision but also provoke a **deeper perception of existence**. **Berger's pieces are not merely to be seen—they must be felt, experienced, and understood through an intimate and profound interaction with the audience.**

Link to HIGH RES IMAGES: bit.ly/SIMONBERGERROMA

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday: 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Sunday: 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

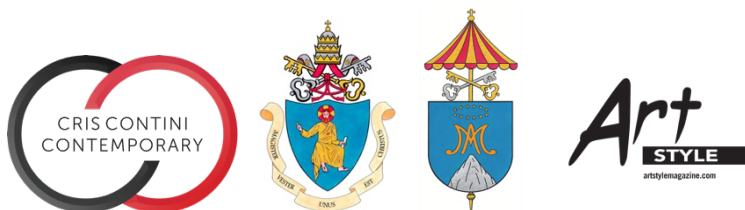
The exhibition will be held at the Church of the Artists, Piazza del Popolo, 18, 00187 Rome.

For information:

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About Simon Berger

Simon Berger was born on April 9, 1976, in Switzerland. He lives and works in Niederörsz. He initially began his artistic explorations by painting portraits with spray cans before transitioning to other expressive mediums. A trained carpenter, his natural affinity for wood inspired his first artistic creations in his studio. Passionate about mechanics, he also spent considerable time working on used car bodies to create assemblages.

It was while contemplating what to do with a car windshield that his idea of working with glass was born. *"The human face has always fascinated me,"* explains Simon Berger. *"On safety glass, these motifs come to life and magically captivate the observer. It is a process of discovery, from abstract blurring to figurative perception."*

Recalling sculptural techniques, a **hammer** is used to imprint facial features, emphasizing them, while the **controlled fracturing of glass** follows the **physical laws of matter**. Instead of collapsing, the safety glass holds the fragments in place. The way light interacts with the cracks and fractures within the glass creates a **reflective effect**—depending on the illumination, the portrait appears to glow.

About Cris Contini Contemporary

www.criscontinicontemporary.com

Founded in **2018** by **Cristian Contini and Fulvio Granocchia**, **Cris Contini Contemporary** is an international gallery located in **Notting Hill, London**, with additional spaces in **Rome** and **Brussels**.

Cris Contini Contemporary provides collectors worldwide access to a **diverse and multicultural portfolio of artists**. The gallery represents **modern masters** such as **Roy Lichtenstein, Pablo Picasso, Lucio Fontana, Andy Warhol, and Robert Indiana**, alongside **renowned contemporary artists** including **David Begbie, Endless, Michelangelo Galliani, Ferruccio Gard, Michal Jackowski, Gioni David Parra, Jeff Robb, Simon Berger**, and many more, with a particular focus on **major social and sustainability themes**.

In addition to ongoing **collaborations with international foundations and museums**, the gallery played a key role in organizing and managing a **national pavilion at the 59th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia 2022**, further solidifying its status as a **reference point for art enthusiasts and collectors worldwide**.

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