

# CRIS CONTINI CONTEMPORARY

presents

## SIMON BERGER THE DOORS OF PERCEPTION

From 2 July to 30 September 2023

Civic Museum of Sansepolcro, Via Niccolò Aggiunti 65, Arezzo, Italy

Cris Contini Contemporary and Lo Studiolo d'Arte, present **THE DOORS OF PERCEPTION**, the solo show of Swiss sculptor **Simon Berger** curated by *Sandrine Welte* and *Prof. Pasquale Lettieri* on display at the **Civic Museum of Sansepolcro** from 2 July to 30 September 2023.

In this exhibition sponsored by the Municipality of Sansepolcro and the Department of Culture, Simon Berger embraces the artistic heritage of the city as a starting point for a commentary that develops from a 1925 essay by Aldous Huxley, in which the author describes **Piero della Francesca's Resurrection** as 'the greatest painting in the world', thus saving it from the bombings of World War II. It was later, in his autobiographical account that the English writer examined the Renaissance artist's work with respect to drapery, thereby opening the semantics of contemplation to new modes of seeing. With *The Doors of Perception*, the Swiss artist undertakes to investigate these very mechanisms of the beholding mind, that solitary universe in which the infinite vagueness of imagination and conception come together.

Through an immersive, box-like installation of glass canvases, the labyrinthine structures of the human intellect are replicated, playing with the illusion of sight and the seduction of the senses.

In his works, Simon Berger transforms the very act of destruction into a possibility, outlining a new paradigm of anti-creation that resonates through the cracks and creases he carves with a hammer. His lacerated portraits lead the eye into the tangle of transparent wounds that he calls '*morphogenesis*'. A pioneer of this technique, through destruction, the artist allows beauty to emerge.

The hammer is no longer just a tool but becomes an amplifier of effects. On this subject, curator **Sandrine Welte** says: '*The idea of bold hammer blows on a glass surface conjures up images of destruction, demolition, obliteration. However, the Swiss artist, having mastered his favourite medium, forges cracks and folds into lines of enquiry that ultimately turn into something figurative and mesmerisingly fascinating.*'

Regarding Berger's artistic expression, Prof. **Pasquale Lettieri** emphasises: '*His concept of work belongs to a cultural elaboration that conceives artistic creation as a phenomenon capable of encompassing both the material and immaterial aspects, in an objective reality that does not refer to beauty as measure and rhythm, but to sublimity as trespassing into the infinite that begins at any point and ends nowhere.*'

Mayor **Fabrizio Innocenti**: '*The exhibition 'The Doors of Perception', a solo show by the talented Swiss artist Simon Berger, is a source of pride for us since the splendid setting of the Museo Civico will host his fascinating works. The artist's extraordinary ability to work with glass will bring prestige to our city, which will host it during the months when the museum enjoys many visits by tourists from various Italian cities as well as from many foreign countries.*'

Councillor **Francesca Mercati**: '*The majestic Renaissance works housed on the piano nobile of the Civic Museum of Sansepolcro will serve as a prelude to an exhibition, that of Simon Berger, set up in the "Sala delle Pietre" (Hall of Stones), which will captivate the visitor both for the particularity of the glass canvases and for the environmental context, which predisposes the visitor's mind to immerse themselves entirely in the surrounding context. This is why we are certain that this exhibition will be a great success and we are particularly happy, but also feel honoured, that the artist has chosen our city to display his talent.*'

**Ugo Agostinelli**, organiser with Cris Contini Contemporary of the exhibition, reinforces his esteem for the artist by stating that '*The Doors of Perception*' is '*a very important metaphor that binds me to a precious thought: the civic museum, despite its totally different exhibition nature, opens its arms to Simon Berger and*

*his disruptive contemporaneity; the principle underlying this perception is that art is a unique, indisputable and universal language that is realised without impediments or barriers of any kind. I hope that Simon, with his hammer blow, can sanction the opening of the museum to the contemporary, paving the way for future exhibitions of this kind, in the hope that the work he gives us will remain as an indelible imprint for future generations.'*

The reciprocity of this dialogue between past and present is sealed by Simon Berger's donation of the work **Eyes of Perception**, which thus becomes part of the collection of the the Civic Museum of Sansepolcro.

**PRESS KIT:** <https://bit.ly/3XlhPvy>

### ABOUT SIMON BERGER

Born 9 April, 1976 in Switzerland. He lives and works in his studio in Niederönz.

He began his artistic explorations by painting portraits with spray cans before moving on to other mediums. A carpenter by training, Simon Berger fosters a natural attraction for wood which inspired the first artistic creations in his studio. A lover of mechanics, he also spent a lot of time working on car bodies to create assemblies. It was while reflecting on what to do with a car windscreen that the idea of working with glass in a figurative, two-dimensional way was born. *'Human faces have always fascinated me'* Simon explains. *'On safety glass, these motifs come into play and magically draw the viewer in. It is a process of discovery from abstract tarnish to figurative perception.'* Reminiscent of sculptural techniques, a hammer is used to imprint the highlighted facial features while the controlled shattering of the glass creates fractures subject to the physical laws of matter: instead of collapsing in on itself, the safety glass holds the fragments in place. The incidence of light is reflected by the fragments and cracks within the glass, so that depending on the brightness of the surroundings, the portrait itself appears to glow.

### CRIS CONTINI CONTEMPORARY

<https://criscontinicontemporary.com>

The international gallery Cris Contini Contemporary was founded in 2018 by Cristian Contini and Fulvio Granocchia and is based in the heart of London. Cris Contini Contemporary offers collectors from all over the world access to an eclectic and multicultural portfolio of artists: from the great modern masters such as Pablo Picasso, Lucio Fontana, Andy Warhol and Robert Indiana to the most highly regarded contemporary artists such as David Begbie, Endless, Michelangelo Galliani, Ferruccio Gard, Gioni David Parra, Michał Jackowski and many others. Thanks also to its continuous new international collaborations, Cris Contini Contemporary represents an unmissable point of reference for art lovers and collectors from all over the world.

Evento organizzato da



LO STUDIOLU  
ARTE  
Sansepolcro

Con il patrocinio di



COMUNEDI SANSEPOLCRO  
Assessorato alla Cultura

In collaborazione con



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**THE DOORS OF PERCEPTION**

**2 JULY – 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

*Civic Museum of Sansepolcro | Sala delle Pietre (Hall of Stones)*

*Via Niccolò Aggiunti 65, Arezzo, Italy*

**Opening 1 July 2023 at 06:00PM**

**Hours:**

Mon-Fri 10:00AM-01:00PM and 02:30PM-06:00PM

Saturday Sunday and public holidays 9:30AM-01:00PM and 02:30PM-07:00PM

Free Entry

[www.museocivicosansepolcro.it](http://www.museocivicosansepolcro.it)

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