

# NAHMAD PROJECTS

## Press Release

“To become truly immortal, a work of art must escape all human limits: logic and common sense will only interfere. But once these barriers are broken, it will enter the realms of childhood visions and dreams.”  
Giorgio de Chirico, *On Mystery and Creation*, 1913

## WE, DREAMING

31 March – 2 April 2017 | Miart Fair, Milan | Booth B36

For Miart fair, Nahmad Projects is excited to showcase a new performance by Riccardo Buscarini: *We, Dreaming*. Dreams have inspired artists across centuries, and will be the *fil rouge* connecting the performance to the surrounding oneiric paintings by Giorgio de Chirico and Max Ernst. The performance will be interactive, visitors may join the artist in bed, where the artist will recount dreams derived from the content of de Chirico and Ernst's paintings.

De Chirico's *Piazza d'Italia con Arianna*, executed in the early 1970s, demonstrates the influence of dream language on his compositions. Dark arcades circle a classical sculpture. What appears to be an empty Italian town square gives way to a vast expanse, only a steam train barrels across the horizon. The sun makes dark shadows and the sky is a dense succession of yellow to green, an empty cosmic space without sun or stars. Elements reappear in his paintings as a recurring vision. The same arcades appear in *Il grande metafisico* (1971), a stunning return to his *Manichini* figures, which formerly belonged to de Chirico's second wife, Isabella Far-Pakszwer. As in a dream, *Sole sul cavalletto* (1968) upturns natural law. The sun sits upon an easel inside a room, and the moon outside is black, like a light switched off. The artist spoke of the inspiration of the poet Apollinaire on this series: "... the suns and stars had returned to earth like peace-loving immigrants. Without doubt, they must have turned themselves off in the sky, because I saw them light-up once again at the entrances and gates of many of these houses".

Together with de Chirico, Ernst combined familiar elements from the world with his subconscious. Where de Chirico carefully defines objects in sharp detail, lending them "uncommon" reality, Ernst's objects are ambiguous, their power subversive. *Monument Aux Oiseaux* (1927) is a significant example of Max Ernst's use of "dream" associations. The painting was exhibited in historically important shows, such as *Max Ernst: Ses Oiseaux* at the Galerie Bernheim-Jeune, Paris, in 1928. An abstracted bird, morphing into a humanoid shape occupies a landscape in flux. Is that a head or a breast? Is there one bird or two? Ernst was fascinated with birds as a symbol for the creative unconscious, freedom, and sexuality. He created Loplop, his alter-ego and the presenter of his interpretations in the 1920s, who would first figure in a painting in 1928. The part-human part-bird in *Monument Aux Oiseaux* has the attributes of Loplop and significantly prefigures this development.

Breaking expectations of the familiar art fair experience, *We, Dreaming* will provide a unique perspective on the paintings exhibited in the Nahmad Projects booth.

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## ***About Riccardo Buscarini***

Riccardo Buscarini is an award-winning artist and choreographer. Movement and the body are at the centre of his practice: he is constantly evolving his creative approach to choreography and exploring its interaction with other art forms. As one of the participating artists in Nahmad Projects' first exhibition, the performance cycle *I am NOT tino sehgal*, Riccardo has returned to us with a new iteration of this work. Riccardo has just completed a new creation at Chelyabinsk Dance Theatre in Chelyabinsk, Russia, and he's currently creating a work on Opus Ballet School in Florence, Italy.

## ***About Nahmad Projects***

Nahmad Projects is a new space for contemporary and post-war art in Mayfair, London. Founded by Joseph Nahmad in collaboration with Tommaso Calabro, the gallery aims to showcase innovative and unusual perspectives. The gallery launched in June 2016 with a cycle of thirty performances: *I am NOT tino sehgal*, followed by *BLISS* with an exploration of eroticism through three iconic artists spanning a century: Jason Rhoades, Felix Gonzalez-Torres and Pierre Auguste Renoir. The gallery is currently showing *Jean Tinguely*, an homage to the Nouveau Réaliste sculptor with six works realised between 1960 and 1981.

## ***Practical details***

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Tel. +44 207 494 25 77  
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