

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANGELO BELLOBONO: *Before me and after my time*

Transitory Borders and Temporary Territories

October 27th – November 22nd

Opening reception Monday, October 27th, 6-9 PM



Conceived as a collaboration between artist Angelo Bellobono and New York/Milan art collector Michela Bondardo, *Before me and after my time* is an exhibition exploring the artist's investigation of belonging, identity, transformation and the changing nature of things. Once again Bellobono extends his painting practice towards projects that collectively highlight community engagement. The show is on view from October 27th to November 22nd.

Living in New York City, Rome and Imlil, allows the artist to extend bridges between the places he has lived in. A series of geological and personal coincidences led him to draw a connection between **the American Appalachians and the Moroccan Atlas**, where Bellobono has created *Atla(s)now*, a community platform for cross-disciplinary collaboration where art and skiing positively enrich the local Berber communities (atlasnowproject.com). These mountain ranges were once connected as part of the mega-continent Pangea, and were separated as a result of shifting tectonic plates 150 million years ago.

This discovery of the common tectonic origin of these mountains has sparked Bellobono's desire to investigate the history of the first people who populated New York and the Appalachians, the native American "Lenni Lenape" who gave the name to Manhattan, which derives from "Manna-Hatta, the island of many hills". The Lenape closest to Manhattan are living today in the area around Ringwood and Mahwah on the Ramapo Mountains of New Jersey.

Bellobono noticed that both the Lenape and the Berbers are faced with similar problems linked to the exploitation and use of their land in ways that cause serious health damage. The Berbers have experienced water pollution at Imiter in the Moroccan Atlas as the result of silver mining, and the Lenape have been affected by the tons of toxic waste material dumped from a Ford plant near Ringwood, NJ.

The exhibition - *Before me and after my time* - consists of a series of paintings, representing the constant geological change and the fragility of personal identity and borders. The subject matter of some of the artworks is soil collected in the area polluted by the Ford plant.

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One of the aims of this exhibition is serving as a platform for the Ramapough Lenape Nation in New York City to document and communicate their cultural heritage and their commitment to environmental preservation. The show is complemented by a series of talks/conversations in presence of Lenape representatives, as well as screenings of the Atla(s)now project in order to share experiences from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

Bellobono explores how the rapid social and geopolitical changes have affected people around the world, the constant efforts humans make to seek a place in which to belong, and the individual efforts to maintain an identity or create a new one. Having spent two decades as a ski coach, ice and mountains are frequent metaphorical elements in his work. Ice refers to the planet's archival memory, and mountains depict hinges instead of barriers, connecting different cultures rather than dividing them.

Occasionally, Angelo Bellobono extends his painting practice towards projects that collectively highlight cultural differences while stressing the need to preserve diversity. A recent example is *Atla(s)now*, a community platform for cross-disciplinary collaboration created in the Atlas mountains in Morocco, where art and skiing positively enrich the local Berber communities (atlasnowproject.com).

Angelo Bellobono's work has been included in various international museum exhibitions, including Kolkata and New Delhi Museum of Modern Art, Cairo Museum of Art, MACRO Rome, CIAC Genazzano, the XV Rome Quadrennial, the IV and V Marrakech Biennale and in public and private spaces such as the Fondazione Volume and Wunderkammern in Rome, Biasa Artspace in Bali, Envoy Gallery in New York, Changing Role in Naples and Frank Pages in Geneve.

In 2002 Bellobono was among the finalists for the Lissone Prize; in 2005 he won the Celeste Prize for painting; in 2009 he won the prize in the Drawing section of the American Artslant Award; in 2011 he was a finalist for the Combat Prize; in 2012 he is among the finalists for the award of Portali dello Scompiglio.

His works are held in various public and private collections.

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Hours: Tuesday/Friday 4-8 pm or by appointment: beforemeandafter@gmail.com