

GT :
MONOgram ,
MONOgraph ,
MONOchrome ,
MONOlogue ...

GORAN TRBULJAK

GT: monogram, monograph, monochrome, monologue...

from 23/01/2014 to 29/03/14
P420

P420 presents the solo show *GT: monogram, monograph, monochrome, monologue* by the artist Goran Trbuljak (opening Saturday 25 January at 19.00, P.zza dei Martiri 5/2, Bologna, on view from Thursday 23 January in coordination with the opening of ArteFiera).

Born in Croatia in 1948, towards the end of the 1960s Trbuljak was already active in the avant-garde movement known as *New Art Practice*.

One of the most interesting Conceptual artists, Trbuljak was immediately convinced that research based on traditional stylistic conventions would be fruitless. In 1971, at the Student Centre Gallery of Zagreb, he showed a poster with the message "I don't want to present anything new and original." Trbuljak does not formulate paradigms, and does not present his work as a new formal alternative. He simply – and brilliantly – puts the accent on the dilemma of the artist, who in the same moment accepts and rejects all the characteristic aspects of any work he might produce. In the 1970s and 1980s, in the context of an art scene of profound changes, Trbuljak embodied the figure of the artist in crisis, skeptical, conscious, disillusioned, "an artist more for what he does not do than for what he does."

His work is also a profound reflection on the art system and the dynamics involved in the attribution to an object of the status of an artwork.

The questions around which his over forty years of research gravitate involve the factors that make a certain activity or a certain attitude classifiable as art. And who is the artist? In a performance in 1972 Trbuljak distributed a sheet of paper bearing a question to passers-by: "An artist is an artist when he is granted the possibility of being one. Is Goran Trbuljak an artist, or not?"

One year later, having obtained the chance to hold an exhibition of his works at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Zagreb, Trbuljak stated "the fact that someone has a chance to make an exhibition is more important than what is shown in that exhibition."

Simultaneously ironic and profound, Trbuljak challenges the principles of Modernism, the cult of the auteur, the notion of originality, and the channels of the art system like galleries, exhibitions and monographs.

The exhibition has been organized with Galerija Gregor Podnar, Berlin.

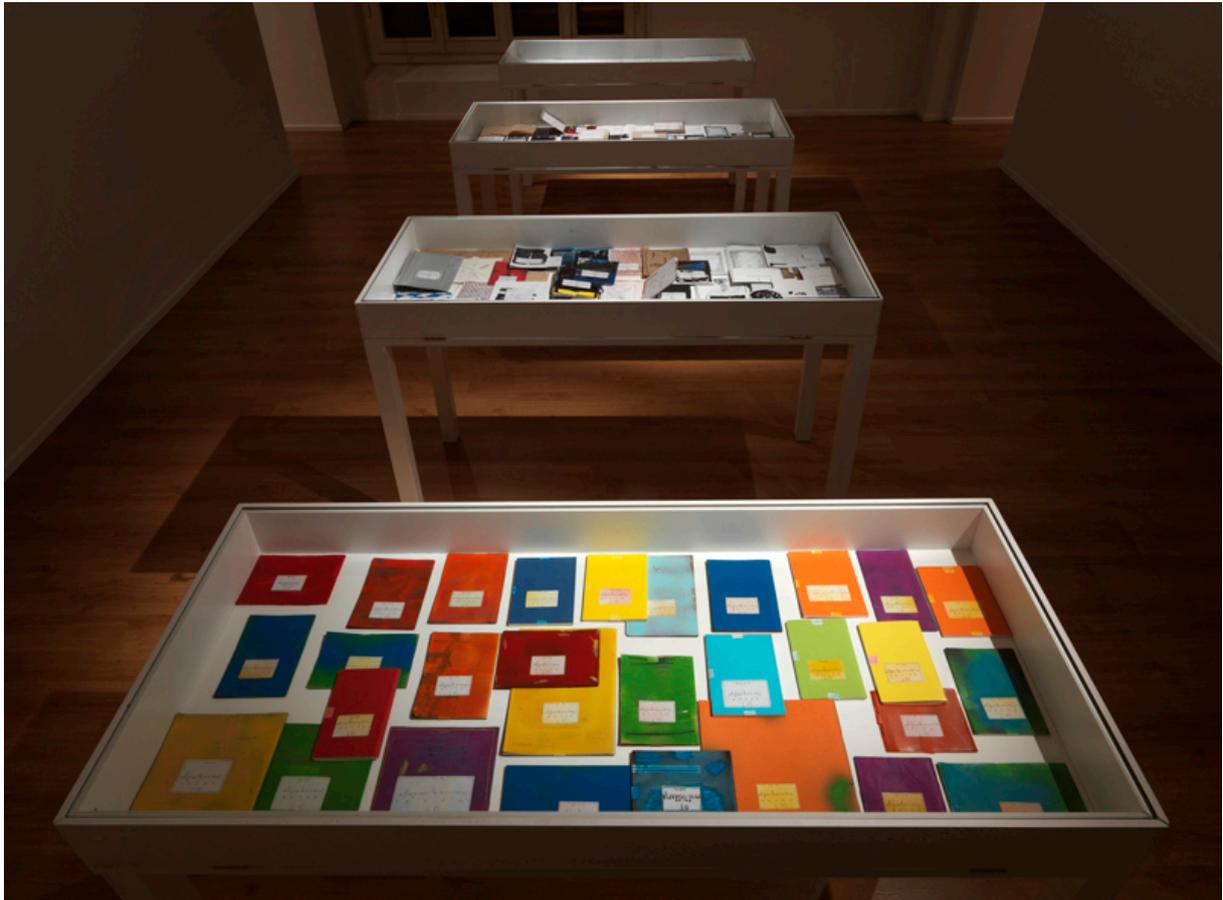
For this occasion, Goran Trbuljak has produced the artist's book *White monograph/ Monografia bianca*, available at the gallery.





Self portrait, 2001, 4 b/w photographs, cm.30,5x24 each, Ed.of 3

“I photographed myself with a wooden camera that I placed on the floor, for I had no tripod for it. To be able to shoot myself, then I had to lie down beside it on the floor. The lens had a cover that has to be moved to expose the negative. I did that by stretching out my left hand.”





150 hand-made monographs, 2010–2013, variable dimensions

"I'm doing a thousand handmade monographs, and waiting to have the thousand plus one printed version."





Hand held painting, 1993, acrylic on double canvases and wooden palette, 45x70 cm.

“I painted a monochrome painting (on the right) using the canvas as a palette (on the left).”





Invitation card, catalogue and photo on paper, 1977, various size

“Three works: invitation. catalogue and exhibition, which show possible relations between the name of the artist and the name of the gallery.

Anonymous artist / anonymous gallery*

Anonymous artist / well-known gallery

Well-known artist / anonymous gallery

The invitation card illustrates the first case, the catalogue the second and the exhibition the third

*On the invitation card I changed the name of the gallery from “Cavallino” to “Canaletto”.



Malerwochen, 1972/1973, series of 6 b/w photographs, 30,3x50,6 cm each, Ed.of 2.

“I signed my name to last pages with advertisements on them in the catalogue VII Internationale Malerwochen 1972 because I wanted to have as many of my own pages as possible in the catalogue. I asked the artist who came last in alphabetic order, Franco Vaccari, to swap places with me in the catalogue.”



Self portrait, 1996, b/w photograph, cm.46,5x58, Ed.3+2AP.

“The photo shows me as a painter, the way people see painters, namely with big eyes and an empty brain.”