

GALLERIA ALESSANDRA BONOMO

ELGER ESSER

Ab Olympo

**On June 5th at 7 pm at Alessandra Bonomo Gallery opens the exhibition
Ab Olympo of Elger Esser.**

In this exhibition, Elger Esser presents a series of works inspired by the garden of Ninfa, situated near Latina south of Rome.

In 2013, returning to the area of his childhood, the artist has spent some day any month to photograph this extraordinary garden, that since the Renaissance attracted painters like Giorgio Vasari as well as writers like Truman Capote and Virginia Woolf, Gabriele d'Annunzio e Boris Pasternak. The novel titled "The Gardens of Finzi- Contini" by Giorgio Bassani was also inspired by Ninfa, which is located along the ground of the Lepian Mountains.

The original township of Ninfa was abandoned in the Middle Ages, because of different calamities and taken over by nature until in the sixteenth century Cardinal Nicholas III ordered the architect Francesco Ceatani Capriani to build a garden area of Ninfa; which was preserved by the Caetani Foundation, founded by the last heir Leila Caetani.

Elger Esser reflects and expresses in his photographs the unique water landscape as well as the wildlife of the garden and awakes the world of the Greek mythology with all different nymphs being part of the fauna and flora.

Already Plinius mentioned that he had witnessed nymphs rising out of the Ninfa-river, Elger Esser encouraged by the same visionary and mythical scenery he recalls the allegorical world which might be hidden behind by showing details of ancient stonewalls ruins covered with wildish woodland along estuaries and basins.

All the works of Ninfa series are unique pieces and printed directly onto aluminum defying classic photography print conventions; as the surface of the prints are finished by Shellac, this new pieces shift between photography and painting.

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The conceptual approach looking for timeless compositions follows Elger Esser's previous landscape works.

In this exhibition will be shown the new videos dedicated at water's movement.

Elger Esser (Born in Stuttgart in 1967) spent many years in Rome, where he attended the German School. In 1997 he graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Dusseldorf, where he was student of Bernd Becher. He lives and works in Düsseldorf. His works are in the collections of major museums as Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York and Centre Pompidou, Paris.

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