

## *In Ordine Sparso* **Helidon Xhixha**

27 June - 29 October 2017

Uffizi Galleries, Boboli Garden,  
Florence, Italy



This summer will see the unveiling of a major new exhibition by contemporary artist Helidon Xhixha. Set within the stunning scenery of the Boboli Garden's in Florence, the exhibition titled *In Ordine Sparso*, will seek to explore the ideas of Chaos and Order through an ambitious series of monumental sculptures and installations.

Over the course of the artist's career, Xhixha has developed an iconic style of sculpting through which he manipulates mirror-polished stainless steel into abstract objects of immense grandeur and beauty. His success in recent years at the 2015 Venice Biennale and the 2016 London Design Biennale has secured his position amongst the top echelons of the art world, making his work some of the most instantly recognizable sculpture today. Through a highly skilled intervention on steel in which perfectly flat, seamless planes become suddenly distorted and disturbed, Xhixha is in fact creating a visual commentary on the interplay between steel and light, between the physical and the intangible; whilst simultaneously touching on powerful philosophical concepts.

Albanian by origin, now living and working between Milan and Dubai, Xhixha was born into a family of artists. He grew up with an inherent respect for the Arts, with his passion for sculpting coming from his father at a young age. He has achieved continued success for his iconic stainless steel structures, which now feature in public and private collections globally.

For this exhibition the artist has sought to explore the deeply complex themes of Chaos and Order, by taking inspiration from nature and sacred geometry. The exhibition can be understood as being split into two separate sections, where a clearly discernable difference between the worlds of chaos and order are apparent. In the Limonaia of the Boboli Garden's the artist has looked to nature in order to discover Chaos. By taking inspiration from the crystal caves of Naica, Mexico, Xhixha has designed a complex response to the seemingly random selenite formations whilst creating art works still imbued with the signature aesthetic that the artist has become so recognised for. The Limonaia has been

transformed into an artistic response to the caves themselves; great column-like structures form an impressive tangle through which the visitor can explore. The installation acts a visual and immersive response to the idea of chaos itself, no underlying patterns or regularities are discernable within the layout; yet still beauty can be found in the abstract and the random.

For the artist's response to Order, monumental structures have been placed in prominent outdoor locations around the Boboli garden, inspired by sacred geometric principles, whose roots are again found in nature. Perhaps most striking of all are the large-scale sculptures placed in front of the Palazzo Pitti; *Conoscenza* and *Infinito*. Situated at either side of the palace entrance, these works display intricate levels of geometric regularity that instantly capture the viewer's attention. *Conoscenza*, in which curved segments of steel spiral outwards from a central point, is reminiscent of the spiralling Nautilus shell; nature's most recognisable answer to the golden ratio, increasing in size as it oscillates. *Infinito*, although very different to *Conoscenza*, again reminds us of fundamental concepts within Order, in this case balance and regularity. Two sloping forms, fragmented and rising in opposite directions, sit side by side. They are at once the same and also entirely different; they parallel not only each other, but also the exhibition itself: a place where opposites can be understood, not as disparate entities, but instead, as highly connected concepts.

From *'In Ordine Sparso'* we are presented with powerful installations that are designed to reflect on, and turn the viewers thought toward, chaos and order. Art often finds most success when it chooses to tackle universal themes, whether implicitly or explicitly, a fundamental thematic content is what separates the extraordinary from the everyday. It is in taking on these deep-rooted concepts of human existence, past and present, that artists can create progressive new works. In tackling the concepts of Chaos and Order, Helidon Xhixha understood the immense responsibility that comes with it, and the resulting body of work shows a clear appreciation for the grandeur of the task. What we learn from this exhibition is that Chaos and Order, whilst they appear as opposing forces, are in fact equally prolific counterparts residing at different ends of the same scale. They exist in unison, they rely on one another and are unified within all things. The exhibition is a fundamental insight into this profound idea and mirrors the process of the artist; starting on a universal scale they continually distil ideas and thoughts until order is restored and the resulting work is realised.



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GALLERIE DEGLI UFFIZI



FIRENZE  
MVSEI

**Monday 13 March at 12.30 am**

Florence, Palazzo Pitti, Tesoro dei Granduchi  
Room of Giovanni da San Giovanni

With the attendance of

**Helidon Xhixha**

And the Curators

**Eike Schmidt & Diego Giolitti**

**Press conference for the forthcoming Exhibition**

## ***Helidon Xhixha: In Random Order***

27th of June - 29th of October 2017

Uffizi Galleries at the Boboli Gardens, Florence, Italy



Helidon Xhixha, Eike Schmidt (Director of the Uffizi Galleries) and Diego Giolitti.



Eike Schmidt and Helidon Xhixha

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Dr. Diego Giolitti, Director Eike Schmidt and Helidon Xhixha.



Helidon Xhixha and Mariella Becherini



Helidon Xhixha's self portrait.