

**Maurizio Pellegrin***The Red, The Black and the Other*

Galleria Michela Rizzo, Venice

*Gestures: Works on Paper*

Galleria Marignana Arte, Venice

*Also, the Elephants travel to Venice*

Oratorio di San Ludovico, Nuova Icona, Venice

**Curator Vittorio Urbani**

Maurizio Pellegrin (Venice, 1956), an artist of international prominence who has shown in prestigious museums and institutions all over the world and taught in the leading American universities, is back in his native city with three exhibitions at once, subtly separate in the configuration and display of the works, and yet together as in a single project.

The two Venetian galleries, **Michela Rizzo** and **Marignana Arte**, both having worked with Pellegrin in the past and also having with him a reciprocal relationship of profound esteem, decided to collaborate not only on this occasion but with a broader and more lasting project aimed at diffusing and distributing together the artist's work. Alongside the two galleries there is also **Nuova Icona** with the space of the Oratorio di San Ludovico, a place where Pellegrin has often shown, presenting an installation created for the occasion.

The Galleria Michela Rizzo hosts *The Red, The Black and the Other*, that features several new works but above all historic ones already shown in important institutions, like for example *Transito e Scorrimento* (a large mural installation exhibited at Ca' Pesaro in 2005, on the occasion of the project *Isole*, that showed works specifically created by Maurizio Pellegrin for all the Venetian museums).

Marignana Arte instead presents the exhibition *Gestures: Works on Paper*: seven subtle new works on paper in the same series, with objects and acrylic paint, graphite and tempera.

In the twilight of the Oratorio di San Ludovico of **Nuova Icona**, on the other hand Pellegrin exhibits a large, expressly designed installation that also gives its title to this section of the exhibition: *Also, the Elephants travel to Venice*.

Maurizio Pellegrin embodies the powerful personality of an omnivorous collector who organizes, catalogues, and gathers objects discovered while he travels all over the world like a modern Marco Polo. He meticulously composes his works made out of clothes, musical instruments, threads and fabrics, black and white photographs and other objects, in keeping with his elaborate and highly personal organizational system, based on iconographies and energies, but also a careful cultural, geographic, and social investigation, combined with his knowledge and passion for ancient civilizations. Numerology, the science that studies numbers and their influence on human life, also plays a central role in the artist's research: he attributes a number to each object in the installation, representing a quantitative hypothesis of the energy it contains. Pellegrin selects and arranges his series of objects so as to go beyond the idea of mere repetition: objects and

materials develop a new hierarchy wherein their former functions are drastically altered, setting up a whole new world of relations, meanings, and dialectic roles.

Maurizio Pellegrin was born in Venice, July 21st 1956, Italy. He lives in New York and Venice. He holds a Master degree in Art History at Ca' Foscari University, Venice, at the Faculty of Literature and Philosophy.

He studied Sociology at New School University, and Eastern Philosophy at New York University, New York. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts of Venice, and he holds the equivalent of the American MFA in Studio Art.

Pellegrin was the Dean of the National Academy School at the National Academy Museum and School in New York where he was also the curator of the gallery. He was the Director of the Venice Program Master of Art at New York University and taught Phenomenology of the Arts and Advanced Studio at Teachers College, Columbia University. In addition, he taught Modern Design and Architecture at Rhode Island School of Design.

He is currently the Executive Director and founder of the New York School of the Arts and of the Hub Cultural Center in New York City.

There is a vast literature on his work. He is the author and subject of more than 30 monographs, and his work has been published in more than 500 articles and essays.

Among the most significant exhibitions: La Biennale di Venezia (1988), San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art (1990), MoMA in New York (1993). In 2005 the city of Venice celebrated Pellegrin with the project *Isole*, which saw his work exhibited in eight museums simultaneously (including Palazzo Ducale, Correr Museum, Palazzo Mocenigo, Ca' Rezzonico, Ca' Pesaro, Monumental Rooms of the Biblioteca Marciana).

**Press conference: Tuesday, June 1 | 10.45 am | Galleria Michela Rizzo**

**Opening to the public: Wednesday, June 2 | 4.00 pm**

**Galleria Michela Rizzo, Venice**

***The Red, The Black and the Other***

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[www.galleriamichelarizzo.net](http://www.galleriamichelarizzo.net)

The exhibition is open until July 31.

Opening hours: Tuesday - Saturday 11.00 am - 6.00 pm

**Galleria Marignana Arte, Venice**

Dorsoduro 141, 30123 Venice

[info@marignanaarte.it](mailto:info@marignanaarte.it) - 041 5227360

[www.marignanaarte.it](http://www.marignanaarte.it)

The exhibition is open until July 24.

Opening hours: Tuesday - Saturday 11.00 am - 6.30 pm

**Oratorio di San Ludovico, Nuova Icona, Venice**

Dorsoduro, Calle dei Vecchi 2552 - 30123 Venice

[www.nuovaicona.org](http://www.nuovaicona.org)

The exhibition is open until July 31.

Opening hours: from June 2 to 5 11.00 - 18.00 | afterwards open by appointment