



Let me count the ways

GIANLUCA MALGERI & ARINA ENDO

June 3 — 23, 2023

THE LOOP GALLERY, TOKYO

Let Me Count the Ways is the title of the new exhibition that Gianluca Malgeri and Arina Endo will be presenting at The Loop Gallery in Tokyo, Japan. The exhibition will open June 3rd, 2023 until 23rd June 2023.

Let Me Count the Ways marks yet another collaboration between Malgeri and Endo, thus bringing to completion a circle started in 2015 with the exhibitions *Edge of Chaos* (Venice, curated by Vita Zaman) and *Homo Ludens* (Magazzino, Rome), then moved on with *Mery-Go-Round* (2019, Ayumi, Tokyo). Their artistic research evolved through several stages: with *Let Me Count the Ways*, the duo is now moving towards new developments and directions, likely in a less programmatic manner compared to the previous installments.

The first works realized by Malgeri and Endo in 2015 revolved around imaginary and fantastic cities, which were built by assembling parts of children's playground (that the artists began studying in 2013) into three-dimensional collages. The evolution of this logic led to the transformation of these "cities" into a complex organism, linked to the figure of Pinocchio and his inner journey to overcome childhood.

Again, in 2019, the two artists injected new life into this body of works by imagining new, flying structures, individually envisioned but also pictured as articulated and "light" systems that invited the viewer to imagine themselves in a space beyond the earthly realm (*Mery-Go-Round*).

In *Let me Count the Ways*, the artists opt for a composition of individual elements and showcase a series of works that refer to a "homecoming", after following imaginary, inner and orbital trajectories. Each artwork in the exhibition, in some way, contains the previous ones and opens up to possible and new developments; like a multi-directional walk, the exhibition seems to remind us of the importance of moving forward, whilst being mindful of the new energy gained from the steps already taken.





"One needs a country, if only for the pleasure of leaving it"

Cesare Pavese, *La Luna e i Falò*, 1949

In the vast landscape of human movement, we find a myriad of travelers, each distinguished by their motivations, attitudes, and identities. There are flâneurs, who find pleasure in aimless wandering; migrants, in search of a new home; expatriates, temporarily transplanted from their homeland, usually for work; tourists, who journey for leisure; exiles, forced to leave their countries; and explorers, driven to discover and illuminate new places. This rich tapestry of mobility is mirrored in literature, teeming with both real and fictional voyagers. From Ulysses to Marco Polo, from Phileas Fogg to Alice, from Don Quixote to Dorothy Gale, each embodies a particular form of journey. In Japanese literature, characters like Tsukuru Tazaki and Toru Okada extend this tradition.

Placing artists Gianluca Malgeri and Arina Endo into any one of these categories is challenging. They are travelers, embodying elements from all the characters mentioned above. Their journeys have been driven by the quest for opportunity, the pull of curiosity, the desire to learn. They have savored their adventures, felt the tug of homesickness, experienced the exhilarating disorientation of new environments, and the demanding struggles of assimilation. Their paths have been marked by both determination and frustration.

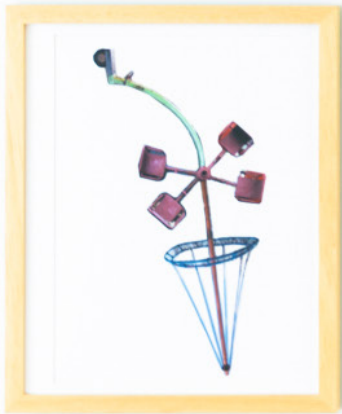
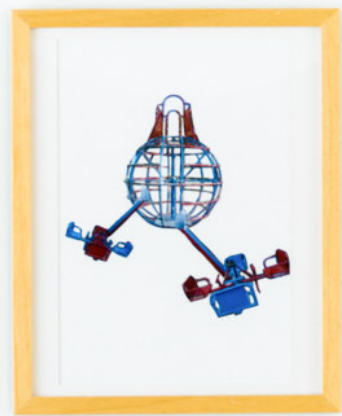


Basso rilievo, 2023
Copper wire and foil
75 × 50 × 3cm



Untitled, 2023
Copper wire and foil
61 × 35 × 86cm

Untitled, 2023
Copper wire and foil
40 × 40 × 80cm



Untitled, 2022
Collage
each 31.2 x 25cm



This exhibition signifies a defining moment in Gianluca and Arina's journey, serving as the threshold of their return. However, the terminus of this journey back remains an enigma. Arina is seemingly leaving her home – Japan; Gianluca is returning to his home country – Italy. Gianluca's birthplace in Southern Italy is no longer the home he once knew; similarly, the Italy he left behind has evolved beyond recognition. Time has sculpted a different landscape and, in tandem, altered the man himself. Similarly, Arina is about to move in a country that might look and feel very different from the one she visited; if anything, because the distance between being a visitor and a resident is immense. Consequently, the exhibition invites us into a paradox: the destination of return, Italy, is both familiar and foreign. And so is the point of departure, Japan.

This exhibition serves not just as a spatial map of their artistic journey, but more importantly, as a temporal instrument. Each work displayed is a window into a specific moment in time, allowing Gianluca, Arina and the viewers alike to travel back, revisiting the sites and epochs of their creative journey. The selected pieces and themes reflect the course of their evolution as artists, enabling them to re-encounter and re-contextualize the events that have shaped their trajectory.





Paese Paesaggio, 2023
Branches, copper wire and foil, wood, stone



Arina Endo
Municipio sul Miraggio, 2015
Wood, sand, terracotta
28 x 28 x 10cm

Arina Endo
Invisible city, 2020
Copper wire and foil
21 x 21 x 14cm



Somnambulist, 2023
Mixed-media
Site specific



Gianluca Malgeri
Planetary garden, 2018
Branches from Italian embassy
Site specific

*Il faut être léger comme l'oiseau,
Et non comme la plume*, 2023
Mixed-media
60 × 60 × 116cm

Their process echoes the strategy of the literary character Little Thumb, crafted by Charles Perrault, who sprinkles pebbles along his path to ensure his safe return from the forest. Like Little Thumb, Gianluca and Arina now find themselves retracing their steps, gathering the symbolic stones they scattered along their path, in hopes of navigating their way out of the metaphoric woods. Each piece of art is a pebble, a tangible marker of where they have been, literally or metaphorically. However, they keenly aware that this path of return may lead into new, unexplored territories and perhaps, they are even primed for this possibility. After all, if the concept of home has morphed beyond recognition, then this journey backward effectively becomes another journey forward. It's a reversal of direction that doesn't deny progress but redefines it.

Thus, this exhibition is more than just a display of art; it is an open invitation to join Gianluca Malgeri and Arina Endo on this unique journey. As visitors, we are given the chance to travel with them on this return trip that paradoxically also projects into the future. Together, we explore the intersections of memory and evolution, past and future, familiarity and novelty – creating a shared exploration of time, identity, and the mutable concept of home.

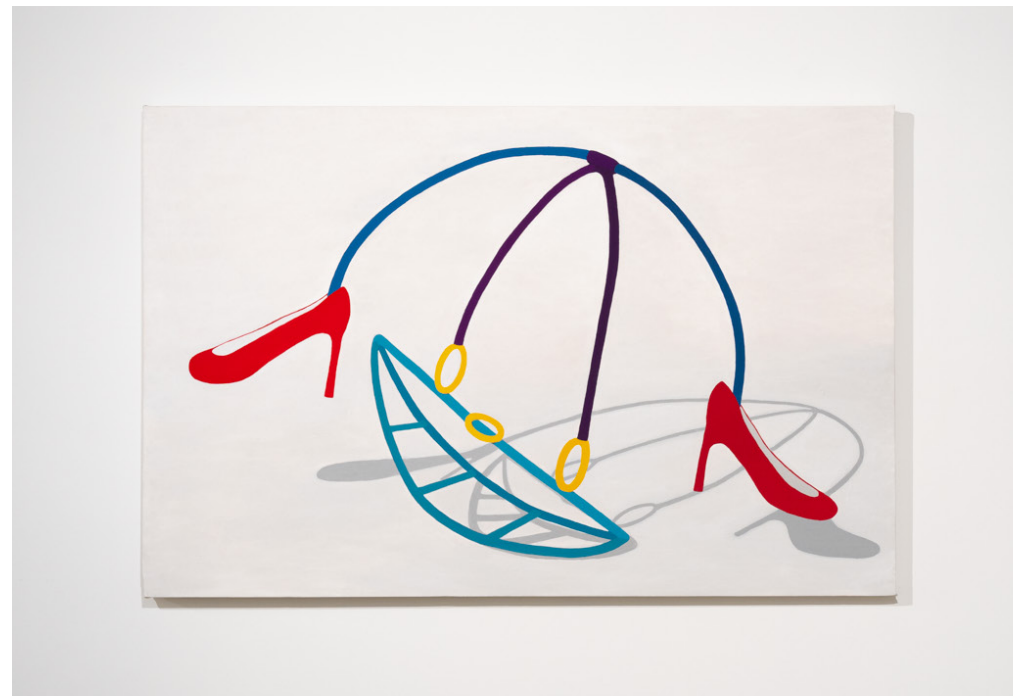
Ibiza, Spain, 24th May 2023

Giovanni Innella





Gianluca Malgeri
Untitled, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
80 x 100cm



Arina Endo
Fata Turchina, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
76 x 116cm



Arina Endo
Vanno, vengono, ogni tanto si fermano, 2015
Dried leaf of *Ficus religiosa*
34.5 × 26.5 × 5.5cm