

PRESS RELEASE

## WHEN IT'S ALMOST DARK

GIORGIO ANDREOTTA CALÒ

14 September – 16 November

Annet Gelink Gallery is proud to announce *When it's almost dark*, Giorgio Andreotta Calò's first solo exhibition at the gallery.



The exhibition presents the project ΙΚΑΡΟΣ (ICARUS), originally developed during Andreotta Calò's participation in *Into Nature* (Emmen, 2020). The project began as a medium-length film and evolved into a broader constellation of works, aiming to translate the poetic essence of the film into the specific grammar of the exhibition space.

The film *Icarus* (2021) was created after a visit to the former butterfly pavilion of the zoo in Emmen. After the zoo relocated, the pavilion also fell into disrepair. Just before its eventual demolition in 2021, Andreotta Calò created this film about one expert -, and one self-taught entomologists who reestablish a colony of moths within the building, in a final symbolic act before its destruction. In the abandoned garden, they go through a cycle of birth, flourishing, and destruction, inspired by Ovid's myth of Icarus. Their contingent actions become manifestations of the myth, and the film, initially a document of a biological transformation, grows into a testament to the mythical narrative.

The labyrinthine installation of cages in the gallery mirrors the butterfly garden in the film and the structure designed by Daedalus in the myth. Branches and cocoons, micro-casted in silver and bronze, are animated by sudden births of moths, shifting the traditional concept of still life into that of living nature. Where the story of Icarus is personified by the entomologist and his pupil in the film, here Andreotta Calò draws a parallel between the tale and the moth.

Andreotta Calò's fascination with the symbiosis between nature and human creation is similarly reflected in the *Pinna Nobilis* series. Employing marine silk and lost wax in the bronze casting process, the sculpture is of a large shell of the species by the same name. For this exhibition, the artist has sewn cocoons of the *Callosamia promethea* (a silkworm) onto the far end of the sculpture, using marine byssus to stitch the organic material to the molten metal.

Through a constellation of works that continually overturn the boundaries between human artefacts and biological manifestations, the exhibition aims to reactivate the mythical dimension of the narrative. *When it's almost dark* thus occupies a permanent state of becoming, in the suspense between day and night and the twilight of the imagination.

After studying sculpture at the Venice Academy of Fine Arts (IT) and at Weißensee Kunsthochschule in Berlin (DE), **Giorgio Andreotta Calò** was assistant to Ilya and Emilia Kabakov between 2001 and 2007. He was a resident at Rijksakademie, Amsterdam (2009-11), Villa Arson, Nice (2012), and the ISCP, New York (2013-14), and his work has been exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions at institutions such as Oude Kerk, Amsterdam and Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milan. Andreotta Calò participated in the Venice Biennale in 2011 as part of the international exhibition and in 2017 in the Italian National Pavilion. He lives and works in Venice, where he teaches sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts. Among the group shows: "Everybody Talks About the Weather", Fondazione Prada, Venice, Italy (2023) Embassy of Italy in London for the project Italy at Frieze In Piena Crisi (2022); Rodeo, Piraeus, Greece (2021); Centro per l'arte contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato, Italy (2020); MAXXI, Rome, (2020); Istituto Italiano di Cultura, New York (2019); Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milan (2017); 16th Quadriennale d'Arte, Rome (2016); High Line, New York (2016); and Castello di Rivoli, Turin (2014).