



## Photo London 2019

Courtyard Pavilion, Stand G22

### **Podbielski Contemporary presents Ganga Ma by Giulio Di Sturco**

'If the Ganga lives, India lives. If the Ganga dies, India dies.' Vandana Shiva

'In contrast to the sensory onslaught typical of the myriad exoticising images used to 'sell' India — bustling bazaars in kaleidoscopic hues, vertiginous throngs congregating on embankments — Di Sturco offers a perspective of quietude and restraint. Landscapes are barren, desolate, and strangely depopulated, a mood further enhanced by the use of startlingly simple compositions and desaturated colours. Here and there, man-made artefacts puncture the otherwise delicate tonal harmonies: a red sari blowing in the wind, a bright blue fishing net, a plastic sandal on the dusty ground.' Eimear Martin

Ganga Ma is the result of Giulio Di Sturco's ten-year photographic journey along the Ganges, documenting the devastating effects of pollution, industrialisation and climate change. The project follows the river for over 2,500 miles, from its source in the Himalayas in India through to its delta in the Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh. The river is on the edge of a humanitarian crisis and ecological disaster — a metaphor for man's conflicted approach to the natural world — both revered and desecrated.

This project was awarded the Getty Images Grant 2014, the first place in the International Photography Grant 2018 – Climate Category and was exhibited as part of the Sony World Photography Awards 2015 and LensCulture Exposure Awards 2018 at the Somerset House, London.

A monograph of this work will be published by the award-winning GOST Books in June 2019. The book includes texts by author and environmental activist Dr Vandana Shiva and curator Eimear Martin.

### Artist Bio

Giulio Di Sturco (b.1979, Italy) is an award-winning visual artist based in London. He studied at the European Institute of Design and Visual Arts in Rome before moving to India, where he spent 5 years refining his visual vocabulary. Much of his personal projects focus on human adversity in climates of environmental and technological evolution. He is a regular lecturer at international photography events and a contributor to a wealth of publications, including The New York Times, Vanity Fair, Wired, National Geographic and The Financial Times. His work has been exhibited at festivals and in galleries worldwide and is held in private collections. In 2019, Giulio was nominated for the Prix Pictet and shortlisted for the Aesthetica Art Prize.

### Podbielski Contemporary

The emphasis of the gallery's program is to represent a wide range of artists, who address the geopolitics of the Balkans, the Middle East, Italy, Germany and eventually new territories in a transcultural perspective. Pierre André Podbielski established Podbielski Contemporary in January 2011 in the heart of Berlin, Mitte. The gallery has now moved back to Milan, its hometown, to new premises located in the elegant *centro storico* and opened to the public in May 2018. The gallery aims to merge art dealing activities with academic research, presenting special events such as artists talks, performances, conferences and screening evenings, to become not only a lively space for art lovers and art collectors, but also a cultural destination for young scholars and for the Milan art community in general.

### Selection of works on show

All works: edition on 9 + 2 A.P.  
Giclée prints on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Satin paper



*Bhairab Railway Bridge, Bangladesh, 2015*  
Available in 100x100cm and 60x60cm



*Yamuna River, India, 2015*  
Available in 100x100cm and 60x60cm



*Varanasi, India, 2008*  
Available in 100x150cm and 60x90cm



*Sundarbans, Bangladesh, 2014*  
Available in 100x150cm and 60x90cm