

RAFFAELLA  
CORTESE  
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Michael Fliri  
Biography

Michael Fliri was born in Tubre, Italy, in 1978. He lives and works in Zürich, Switzerland, and South Tyrol, Italy.

Subtle and nuanced, the art of Michael Fliri exists on the thresholds between performance, sculpture, photography and video. In his practice, which cannot be subsumed under any single heading, he investigates concepts such as metamorphosis, mutation and disguise: the protagonists in his work – often Fliri himself – time and again undergo a process of transformation. Body, landscape, a thought-out theme and imaginative metaphors together form a compelling whole. “For me transformation means new possibilities, new opportunities. Everything is in motion, not definite. The idea of the not-defined is what interests me most”, states the artist. Central to his work seems to be question of what determines who and what we are. What is our identity? How do we form our image of ourselves? Are we really who we think we are?

Fliri presents himself to the viewer and leaves them on their own, faced by changes. Masks and disguises have always been tied to concepts of changing and multiplicity; they unfold new possibilities, veil and unveil hidden aspects. Fliri's actions allow for the construction of suspended reality, images so dense and poetic, so enigmatic and dreamy, account for the continuous and mutable flux to which everything is inevitably drawn, but first of all, they reach each one of us in our personal wish of metamorphosis.

Selected solo exhibitions include: *La luz nunca ve una sombra*, Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Madrid (2021); *Grenzgänge: Julia Bornefeld & Michael Fliri*, Forte di Fortezza, Fortezza, (2019); *Michael Fliri. The light never*

*sees a shadow*, RLB Atelier Lienz, Lienz, Austria (2018); *Replace me as the substitute*, Cultuurcentrum Mechelen, Mechelen, Belgium (2017); *Becomings*, Wendy Norris, San Francisco (2016); Zeppelin Museum, Friedrichshafen, Germany (2014); MAC, Lissone (2013); *00°°°00°00°00*, Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato (2011).

Selected group exhibitions include: *The Mountain Touch*, Museo Nazionale della Montagna, Torino (2022); *Unlearning categories*, Museion, Bolzano (2020); *KOPFhoch*, Kunst Meran/Merano Arte, Merano (2020); *DA.ZWISCHEN*, Magazin 4, Bregenz (2019); *The Raft*, Mu.ZEE, Ostend (2017); *Dalla caverna alla luna*, Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato (2017); *La forza della fotografia*, Museion, Bolzano (2016); *Ex*, Mambo, Bologna (2016); Premio Fondazione Vaf, MACRO, Rome (2016); *Mapping the Body*, Galerie im Taxispalais, Innsbruck (2016); *Il sosia. Artists and private collections*, Mart - Museo di Arte Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto, Rovereto (2015); *Avatar und Atavismus*, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf (2015); *Hors Pistes. Un autre mouvement des images*, Centre Pompidou, Paris (2012); *Linguaggi e sperimentazioni*, Mart - Museo di Arte Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto, Rovereto (2010); *Wonder World. Expecting a restless future*, 3rd Moscow Biennale, Moscow (2009); *Hopes and Doubts*, Fondazione Merz, Turin (2009); *Fuori Centro*, Hangar-Bicocca, Milan (2009).