

# MOSTYN

MEDIA RELEASE - 20 June 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Elisabetta Benassi: EMPIRE at MOSTYN, Wales UK**

From 13 July to 27 October 2019 MOSTYN, Wales UK will be hosting *EMPIRE*, a project by Elisabetta Benassi, winner of the third edition of the 'Italian Council (2018)' call set up by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Art and Architecture and Urban Peripheries (DGAAP) of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities to promote Italian contemporary art worldwide.

*EMPIRE* reflects the basic building element of ancient architecture, the Roman brick, transforming it into an element with new aesthetic potential and meaning, constitutive of a site-specific installation made of six thousand terracotta bricks impressed with the inscription that entitles the work.

The term 'empire', with its varied and contrasting meanings, suggests figures of power and grandeur, and at the same time evokes dark scenes of coercion, domination and submission. By positioning herself at the crossroads between history and memory, between symbolic and political value, verbal language and visual experience, with this project Elisabetta Benassi once again reflects on the dialectic relationship between the past and the present. Like a form of device that produces unexpected configurations, the work aims to challenge the idea of an Ancient period that is considered as accepted fact, instead presenting it as a conflicting plot, a form of resistance to the presumed inevitability of the present.

Having previously been shown in the courtyard of the Museo Nazionale Romano – Palazzo Altemps, *EMPIRE* is presented at MOSTYN and will then go on to reach its final and permanent destination at Museo Nazionale Romano – Crypta Balbi in Rome, at the same time as the documentative exhibition at the Pontificia Accademia dei Virtuosi al Pantheon.

The project *EMPIRE* by Elisabetta Benassi is curated in MOSTYN by Alfredo Cramerotti, Director. It has been made possible with the support of the Italian Council Directorate-General for Contemporary Art and Architecture and Urban Peripheries (DGAAP) of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities under the direction of Federica Galloni. It is promoted by Museo Nazionale Romano in collaboration with the Pontificia Accademia dei Virtuosi al Pantheon, the Italian Institute of Culture in London, and MOSTYN, Wales UK.

For images, please contact [lin@mostyn.org](mailto:lin@mostyn.org)

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## About MOSTYN

MOSTYN presents international art and culture of our time, activating people's lives through exhibitions, cultural programmes and commercial activities. Situated in the coastal town of Llandudno, it is Wales' foremost contemporary gallery and visual arts centre, serving as a place to form and share new perspectives through artistic/curatorial practice and audience engagement. It is part of the Plus TATE, the UK-wide contemporary visual art network.

MOSTYN receives financial support from the Arts Council of Wales and Conwy County Borough Council Art Service. Mostyn Gallery Ltd is a registered charity trading as MOSTYN (charity number 507842).

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Open Tuesday – Sunday

10.30am – 4.00pm

ADMISSION FREE

