

# Marsèlleria

permanent exhibition

**CHELPA FERRO**  
**Spacemen/Cavemen**

**19 January - 2 March 2018**  
**Marsèlleria via privata Rezia, 2 - Milano**

**Opening and performance Thursday 18 January 2018, 7 - 9 pm**

Marsèlleria is glad to present, in its via privata Rezia 2 venue in Milan, *Spacemen/Cavemen*, installation by Brazilian collective Chelipa Ferro. Composed by artists Barrão, Luiz Zerbini and Sergio Mekler, Chelipa Ferro is an old colloquial Portuguese term for money, chosen by the artists because of its sound. Chelipa Ferro's eclectic work explores the plasticity of the sound and its dynamics through sculptures, objects, installations and music performances that challenge the senses of the viewer by using every day objects.

The work will be displayed in Italy for the first time after the presentation in London at Sprovieri in June 2017. *Spacemen/Cavemen* is composed by different materials, connected and suspended a few centimeters above the floor; they reproduce lights and sounds composed by the artists, with a dense and apparently incomprehensible dialogue among the installation elements.

The insert of technological elements on common materials, also obsolete ones, gives them a new sense and a new voice, creating a confusion in the recognition of sense, time and space coordinates in which the work could fit; but, as it is evident from the title itself, *space men* and *cave men* are very different, but coexist in the realm of the same species, making it difficult to find a clear position.

Chelipa Ferro have always worked on the dignity of "modest" sounds and materials, also going back to traditions and examples drawn from art history, together with totally contemporary ideas and creations. The layering of history and the potentialities of the objects, very often different from the usual ones, create a surrounding inviting to interaction, which the public is driven to comply, taking part to the narration of the work, physically "entering" in it and reflecting on use, consumption and cultural attitudes accompanying objects and sounds.

Chelipa Ferro is an art group formed in 1995 by the Brazilian artists Barrão, Luiz Zerbini and Sergio Mekler. Barrão made a name for himself in the 1980s, by using banal materials, from refrigerator components, to television parts and other fragments of household appliances, to create sculptures with a sense of humour. Luiz Zerbini is one of the most recognized Brazilian painters and Sergio Mekler is one of the most sought after editors of video and cinema in Brazil. Since 1995 Chelipa Ferro has exhibited extensively in galleries and museums, both in Brazil and internationally; it has also participated in art biennials, São Paulo in 2002 and 2004 and Venice in 2005 when it represented Brazil.

Chelipa Ferro already released four albums and has played live concerts in the UK, United States and Europe. In 2010 the group was shortlisted for the Nam June Paik Award, International Media Art Award of the Arts Foundation of North Rhine, Westphalia, Germany.

Thanks to Galleria Sprovieri, London.

**Marsèlleria - Via privata Rezia, 2 - Milano**

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