**ADRIAN PACI**

Adrian Paci (born in 1969 in Shkoder, Albania) studied painting at the Academy of Art of

Tirana. In 1997 he moved to Milan where he lives and works. Throughout his career he

held numerous solo shows in various international institutions such as: Museum of arts,

Haifa (2022); Kunsthalle, Krems (2019); Galleria Nazionale delle Arti, Tirana (2019); Chiostri

di Sant'Eustorgio, Milan (2017) Museo Novecento, Florence (2017); MAC, Musée d'Art

Contemporain de Montréal (2014); Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea - PAC, Milan (2014);

Jeu de Paume, Paris (2013); Bloomberg Space, London (2010); The Center for

Contemporary Art - CCA, Tel Aviv (2009); MoMA PS1, New York (2006) and

Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston (2005).

Amongst the various group shows, Adrian Paci's work has also been featured in the 48th

and the 51st edition of the International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di

Venezia (respectively in 1999 and 2005); in the 15th Biennale of Sydney (2006); in the 15th

Quadriennale di Roma, where he won first prize (2008).

His works are in numerous public and private collections.

Adrian Paci teaches painting at Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti NABA, Milan. He has been

a teaching art classes at Accademia Carrara di Belle Ari Bergamo, 2002-2006, IUAV,

Venice 2003-2015 and EPFL Lausanne 2020-2021.

**PROVA, 2019**

10’16’’  
Courtesy the artist, kaufmann repetto, Milano e New York and Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zürich

The complexity of expressing the narrative and its inmost being in words is reflected in Paci’s video work Prova. In this film he takes his earlier work Turn on (2004) as a starting point and works with the same protagonists, job- seekers from Shkodër in Albania. The backdrop is the concrete spine of a building that was never completed, in the middle stands a group of men who seem to be silently waiting. It is dark and the only source of light is the town’s street-lamps. A whole night long, from sunset to sunrise, the protagonists look at each other, smile or fall asleep on their feet. The perceived silence is interrupted from time to time by the repeated call of the words “Prova,

prova..” (“Test, test...”) spoken by the men into the microphones they hold as if at a soundcheck. It is as if they are waiting for their appearance, which however never comes. As soon as one of the men stops talking the narration is continued with glances, poses and gestures. Their body language and their faces marked by life tell a story that words cannot express. After a while the camera follows a group of horses and dogs for several minutes as they run freely through the streets and seem to mock the protagonists with their own liberal acting. It seems as if the animals are warning of the urgency of action and reflecting opportunities and freedom but also evoking the yearning to break out. A photograph was taken during the shooting of the film (color print, see invitation card) which will be on show in the gallery’s office space.