

Maria Cristina Carlini takes part in

Wunderkammer. Arte, Natura, Meraviglia ieri e oggi/Cabinet of wonder. Art, Nature, Wonder yesterday and today

curated by Lavinia Galli and Martina Mazzotta

15 November 2013 – 2 March 2014

Press conference Gallerie d'Italia - Thursday 14 November, 11.30am

Grand opening Thursday 14 November at 6.30pm

Milan - Italy

Press Release 12.11.2013

The sculptress **Maria Cristina Carlini** takes part in the group exhibition **Wunderkammer. Arte, Natura, Meraviglia ieri e oggi/Cabinet of wonder. Art, Nature, Wonder of yesterday and today** held at the illustrious Milan venues of the **Gallerie d'Italia** of Intesa San Paolo and the **Poldi Pezzoli** Museum from 15 November to 2 March.

The exhibition curated by Lavinia Galli e Martina Mazzotta, created in cooperation with the Antonio Mazzotta Foundation, retraces the phenomenon of the Wunderkammern - "cabinets of wonder" -, born in the late Renaissance and combines them with the works of contemporary artists, thus creating a bridge between past and present.

From it are born connections, resemblances and equivalences, in which nature plays a fundamental role, that is, it is the main character of these "wonders" that creates manifold and unreal sceneries.

The interpretation by **Maria Cristina Carlini** of this theme is portrayed by the installation *La mia Wunderkammer/My cabinet of Wonder* (180x250x300 cm), expressly created for the exhibition. The work that can be called *artificialia/manufactured things*, according to the usage of the time, has been created with different materials: volcanic soil, sandstone, enamels, old candle holders and salvaged wood.

On a layer of lava earth "forests" and "craters" rise - sculptures made in sandstone and enamels - that stand out on a background made of crooked wooden planks: a reference to the sixteenth-century walls covered by wooden shelves and where collections of *mirabilia/wonders* are placed. A line of golden enamel runs through the elements of the composition shaping a sort of frame in which the big red branch in the center stands out, evocative of the "coral", reminder of the typical presence of *naturalia/natural things*.

What literally bursts out in the process of going back to the tradition of the Wunderkammern is the link of the artist with nature, as source of inspiration which constantly accompanies her works, sometimes overtly and some other times in the form of a metaphor.

For the sculptress the primeval matter, like the lava earth often present in her works, represents the starting point from which, through transformations and evolutions, her works of art are born.

The immeasurable force of nature, generated inside the bowels of the Earth, created forests and craters that release devastating and regenerative powers from which every form of life dies and then starts again to pulse and evolve.

The "camera delle meraviglie/cabinet of wonders" by Maria Cristina Carlini reconnects us to Mother Earth and Nature, taking us back to the mineral, plant and animal worlds, to everything that surrounds us.

Among the artists on show: Alik Cavaliere, Joseph Cornell, Giuliana Cunéaz, Érik Desmazières, Marcel Duchamp, Damien Hirst, Emilio Isgrò, Jannis Kounellis, Piero

Manzoni, Vedova Mazzei, Mario Merz, Claudio Parmiggiani con Abel Herrero, Elisa Sighicelli and Studio Azzurro.

The exhibition is completed by a catalogue, published by Skira|Edizioni Gabriele Mazzotta, which contains essays and files on the artworks on show.

Details

Title Wunderkammer. Arte, Natura, Meraviglia ieri e oggi / Cabinet of Wonder. Art, Nature, Wonder of yesterday and today - featuring Maria Cristina Carlini

Curated by Lavinia Galli e Martina Mazzotta

Venues Gallerie d'Italia – Piazza della Scala

Museo Poldi Pezzoli – Via Manzoni 12

Press Conference Thursday 14 November, at 11.30am – Gallerie d'Italia – Milan, Italy

Grand Opening Thursday 14 November, at 6.30pm

Dates 15 November 2013 – 2 March 2014

Opening hours Poldi Pezzoli Museum Wed-Mon 10am-6pm, closed Tuesdays

Gallerie d'Italia Tue-Sun 9.30am-7.30pm (last admission at 6.30pm), Thursday 9.30am-10.30pm (last admission at 9.30pm), closed Mondays

Entrance Poldi Pezzoli Museum full price €9 – reduced price €6 – children under 10 years go free
Gallerie d'Italia free

Info www.museopoldipezzoli.it - www.gallerieditalia.com - www.mazzotta.it

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