



ROYAL CASTLE OF GOVONE

Roero (Cuneo)

Maria Cristina Carlini. Fare secondo natura Maria Cristina Carlini. Making according to nature

Curator: Martina Corgnati

9 September – 3 November 2013

Opening ceremony on Sunday, 8 September at 6:30 pm

Press Release 5.08.2013

The Royal Castle of Govone, a Piedmontese Savoy residence in the Roero, ranked among the sites declared world heritage by UNESCO, houses in its halls and surrounding park, from 9 September to 3 November, the solo exhibition entitled **Maria Cristina Carlini. Fare secondo natura/Maria Cristina Carlini. Making according to nature**, curated by **Martina Corgnati**.

The exhibition highlights the artist's close aesthetic link with nature and its elements meant as an inexhaustible source of inspiration. The works on display express, in fact, the poetics of the sculptress through forms that refer to the primordial matter and its evolution and transformation into works of art.

Sandstone, Corten steel, resin, reclaimed wood, sheet metal, iron are the materials that Maria Cristina Carlini prefers and that take shape in monumental sculptures as well as in medium and small size works.

In the park stand out, among others, the two impressive **newly made works**: *Vento (Wind)*, a dizzying fan almost fifteen ft high (4,5 m), and *Samurai* (350x500x300 cm, approx. 18x16.5 x10 ft), both made primarily with reclaimed wood and Corten steel, establish an inexorable connection with the natural world, as well as *Legni (Woods)* and *Cerchi (Circles)*, both from 2012. Their solemnity and robustness coexist with the balance, neat harmony of shapes, creating an intimate dialogue with the surrounding environment. A different message is that of *Chernobyl*, an installation of stylized iron trees, over three metres (almost 10 ft) high, which denounces the damage inflicted by man to nature, remembering at the same time the importance of environmental values.

In the indoor rooms we find several sculptures made of stoneware, a material beloved by the artist, through which she gives shape to most of her works. Carlini's is a patient work where matter intertwines with the rituals of water, earth and fire, referring to the "thought", to the re-working of ideas that evolve until eventually being translated into artworks.

The *Crateri/Craters* (15 to 35 cm in diameter / approx. 6 to 14 in), made of stoneware and lava with coloured enamels, evoke ancestral memories and form a point of contact between the past, the present and the future.

Of strong impact are also works such as *Verso l'Infinito (Towards Infinity)*, an enigmatic staircase wrapped up between soft curves of Corten steel whose end point is unknown; *Stracci (Rags)*, scraps of stoneware fabric with iron seams, hanging from structures that rest upon a carpet of dark earth and *Note (Notes)*, prisms of sheet metal hanging in the air, which refer to the reading of an invisible stave.

The exhibition is accompanied by a book published by **Skira**, edited and with a critical essay by Martina Corgnati.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Piedmont Region, the Province of Cuneo and the Municipality of Govone.

The graphic design of the exhibition is by Stefania Cravanzola..

Biographical notes

Maria Cristina Carlini began working with ceramics in the early seventies in Palo Alto, California, and then expressed herself with the use of different materials such as stoneware, iron, Corten steel, wood and resin for the realization of models and sculptures, sometimes of monumental scale.

The artistic path of Maria Cristina Carlini includes solo and group exhibitions in numerous international private and public venues.

In Italy, her most recent exhibitions include: the monumental complex of the Royal Palace in Turin (2005) and the National Museum of Villa Pisani at Strà - Venice (2005), the State Archives in Rome (2006), the National Library in Cosenza (2008), the State Archives in Milan (2008), the International Biennial of Sculpture at Racconigi Castle (2010), and the Archives of the Roman School (2011-2012). In 2012 she exhibited in the premises of the Province of Varese, with monumental sculptures installed in the park and later on in Milan at the Mudima and Stelline Foundations, with an important solo exhibition and then at the Bocconi University.

Several events held abroad are worth mentioning. In 2009 Paris, followed by Madrid, housed in the streets of their historic centres the artist's monumental sculptures. In 2008, one of her monumental works was permanently installed in front of the Italian Embassy in Beijing. Inside the Forbidden City, a solo exhibition of the artist was opened, and she also took part in the 4th International Art Biennale held at the NAMOC. In Shanghai, two of her monumental works were presented in conjunction with the 2010 World Expo. She exhibited in Jinan at the Shandong University of Art and Design besides inaugurating a monumental sculpture in Tianjin.

Also during 2010 she also exhibited in Denver, in the campuses of Auraria and of the Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design, as well as in France, on the promenade at Cap D'Agde.

In Miami in 2011 one of her largest monumental works inaugurated the newly created Sculpture Park as part of the Church of Corpus Christi and one of her large size sculptures was installed in front of the entrance of the Dade College. In 2012 she was present in Paris at Artcurial on the occasion of the fair "AD Interiors 2012".

In 2013 she participated in Hong Kong in the LinkArt Fair and exhibited at the Consulate General of Italy in Hong Kong in conjunction with the first edition of Art Basel in the city.

Important art critics have written about her, including, among others: Luciano Caramel, Claudio Cerritelli, Gillo Dorfles, Carlo Franza, Flaminio Gualdoni, Yakouba Konaté, and Elena Pontiggia.

A number of her monumental sculptures are on display permanently in Italy, China and the United States.

Exhibition details

Title: Maria Cristina Carlini. Fare secondo natura/Maria Cristina Carlini. Making according to nature

Curator: Martina Corgnati

Venue: Royal Castle of Govone, Roero (Cuneo)

Dates: 9 September through 3 November 2013

Opening ceremony: Sunday, 8 September at 6:30 pm

Opening hours: park every day around the clock

Indoor rooms Tuesday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm / Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm – 6:30 pm

by appointment for groups and in different other hours (phone: 366 1075469)

Admittance free entrance to the Castle Park; 3 Euros to access the indoor rooms

Catalogue Skira

Visitor information City Tourist Office of the Municipality of Govone 0173 58103 int. 1 - info@stefaniacravanzola.com

How to get there Motorway A21 (Turin-Piacenza): exit Asti Est - Main Road (State Road) 231 towards Alba – exit Govone

Motorway A6 (Turin-Savona): exit Marene – Main Road (National Road) 231 towards Alba-Asti and drive until you reach Govone

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Text and images available for download at: www.irmabianchi.it