

Charterhouse of San Lorenzo
Padula (Salerno), Italy

Fresco Bosco/Cool Forest

curated by Achille Bonito Oliva

24 June 2006 - 23 September 2006

Achille Bonito Oliva, curator-director of the whole festival, says: "with 'Fresco Bosco/Cool Forest' you experience the fascinating expansion of the Charterhouse towards the Park, in an exceptional encounter between nature and culture".

From sunset to sunrise, during the night between **23 and 24 June**, in the big park of the Charterhouse of San Lorenzo a Padula, one can experience the extraordinary show **Una Notte di Arte Totale "inaugura" Fresco Bosco/A Night of Total Art "launches" Cool Forest**. It is a multi-sensorial path rich in splendors with theatrical, poetic, musical, artistic events, performances, sculptures and installations that give life to the surrounding green area and cause aesthetic surprises and unusual visual sequences.

The event is promoted by the **Superintendence of Salerno and Avellino**, conceived by Achille Bonito Oliva, curator-director, and is part of the project **Eventi in... Campania/Events in... Campania**, achieved with the funds by **Campania Region** and granted with the funds from the European Union. The Superintendent Giuseppe Zampino says: "With 'Fresco Bosco/Cool Forest' the Superintendence of Salerno and Avellino reopens the series of cultural events that already in the past transformed the Charterhouse of Padula into the citadel of contemporary art".

Sculptures and installations of large sizes will give a new life to the green areas of the Charterhouse: by **Gianni Dessì** a resin sculpture with intertwined branches on the top (height 2,80m.); by **Braco Dimitrijevic** the majestic stone sculpture of 2,80m. with the golden inscription that says "If you observe the Earth from the Moon, there is virtually no distance between the Louvre and the zoo"; by **Giuseppe Gallo** two billy-goats in bronze placed on a walled frame where it is possible to enter; by **Ernesto Tatafiore** the sculpture "Calamaro di montagna/Mountain calamari", made up of a big iron cone (height 2m.) mounted by a spinning red calamari on the top; by **Angelo Plessas** are the seven flags of embroidered fabric which are part of the work "Neen", a virtual-conceptual movement of which the artist is one of its theorists. The Giorgio Persano Gallery of Turin contributed to the creation of the installation by **Luisa Rabbia**, made of ceramics on the themes of shadows, trees, and fossil leaves, which was placed in the underground caves; to the "Crepuscolare Madonna/Twilight Madonna" by **Alfredo Romano** made of polycarbonate; to the glass sculpture by **Costas Varotsos**, "Horizon", placed on the enclosure wall at the outskirts of the forest for more than 50 metres.

After a great success in regards to critics and the public of the triennial exhibition **Le Opere e i Giorni/ Works and Days**, which created a substantial permanent collection of contemporary art inside the Charterhouse, the artistic creations of "Fresco Bosco/Cool Forest" will enrich its heritage: sculptures and installations will stay permanently on display in the Park and a video by Mario Franco will testify to the theatrical and musical events and the performances of the opening night. After the modification of the landscape, made during the two editions of 'Ortus Artis', 'Fresco Bosco/Cool Forest' goes with its works beyond the Charterhouse to the surrounding park.

Una Notte di Arte Totale "inaugura" Fresco Bosco/ A Night of Total Art "launches" Cool Forest

Two "pied pipers": the artist **Alessandro Bergonzoni**, who plays with words, and the actress **Alessandra Vanzi** will accompany the visitors through the paths of this experience of total art, offering the public different ways of looking through the artistic kaleidoscope. The park of the Charterhouse thus transform into an interactive environment, into an opportunity for interaction, into a place of story-telling.

To enter and delve at night into a forest lively with **performances** will leave an unforgettable memory: the audience will be involved in a concrete experience of theatre-nature, deeply rich in content.

The Morra Foundation promotes the intervention of **Hermann Nitsch** in four locations in the Park. At 8pm the concert event "String Quintet" will start, thought of by Nitsch in 1998 with the distribution of bread and wine to the people seated in the forest in the stillness of the night. In the park two video-presentations can be admired, "Azioni 1962-2003/Actions 1962-2003" and "Azione dei 6 giorni/6 days Action". At 1.30am at the monumental staircase one will be able to listen to string music, interpreted by a quintet. All the participants will be given torches to stroll in the park; when they will be quenched the starry sky will be observed, waiting for dawn and "meditating on existence". In the work by Nitsch music has always been a fundamental element of the Orgien Misterien Theater, a complex form of total art where synesthetically converge theatre, painting, music and any other artistic discipline including all the fields of experience, on the basis of an all-inclusive consciously elaborate project.

Antonio Rezza and **Flavia Mastrella** will perform in "Facciamo prendere aria al teatro/Let fresh air into theatre": the scenery paintings are suspended in the air by coloured threads and the space will be lit up by several lights placed on the surrounding trees. **Giuseppe Zevola** will read poems.

The cypress avenue will become the scenic design of "Agogno la gogna/I long for the pillory", show by **Alfonso Benadduce**, author, director and main interpreter of the work. The actors, among which are Francesca Cutolo and Benedetta Cesqui, will roam along the boulevard duelling and wandering naked in a parade with paintings hanging from their necks, being spat in the face by flowers. In the end they will reach the pillory: deliverance for the paralysis of art.

The group **O Thiasos Teatro Natura** will put up the travelling show "Demetra e Persefone/Demeter and Persephone", inspired by the story of the kidnapping of Persephone by the Death God and of the pilgrimage of Demeter (goddess of nature and inconsolable mother) looking for her lost daughter. The tale drifts along the river of a duet song which accompanies the development of the story. The perception of the noises and sounds of the forest mingles with the words of the tale; the characters evoked from the story-telling (accompanied by polyphonic songs from the Mediterranean oral tradition) turn into the blurry and changing shadows which the night prompts. The show underlines the eternal myth and mystery of nature.

The **Lovett/Codagnone** will interpret "Obliquities", a performance on the dynamics between love and power which investigate the relationships in the couple, the sense of imposition, the difficulty of communication and deficiency of language; **Antonio Caggiano**, with the assistance of Marcello Filotei, will liven up the forest that runs along the electronic music boxes of his concert-performance "La foresta incantata/The enchanted forest", a

composition inspired by the painting of Pollock from which it was named after: it is a journey inside a forest of animated sounding objects and suspended percussion instruments which produce changing sounds (also thanks to the electronics). In cooperation with the Pack Gallery and with the coordination of Martina Cavallarin, **Franko+B** will lead the performance "Don't leave me this way" next to the monumental staircase: a work based on the sense of estrangement and fear, where blinding lights create a wall that separates the audience from the artist who feels hunted; **Matteo Basile** will do the performance "Per grazia ricevuta/For grace received".

Pino Pipoli will act in the short "La Fata e Corvina in cantata nel bosco/The fairy and Raven-black in singing in the forest", accompanied by the voice of Manuela Barile, featuring Michele Pagano and the musical composition by Andrea Biagioli.

Maria Giovanna Sessa, Director of the Charterhouse, states: "the Carthusian Desertum comes back to life as a place where to cultivate the spirit and to introduce man and nature". Gennaro Miccio, Keeper of the Charterhouse, says: "while in *Ortus Artis* architects and landscapers redefined the green areas of the Charterhouse, in *Fresco Bosco/Cool Forest* the artists light up the huge outdoor space of the park with their creativity".

The outdoor coordination is by Giuliana Picarelli.

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