

Rotonda di Via Besana

Chiara Dynys

Luce negli occhi / Light to the eyes

curated by Maurizio Sciaccaluga and Steve della Casa

31 March 2007 - 10 June 2007

Light that modifies reality and perception: this is the theme of the exhibition of CHIARA DYNYS - Luce negli occhi/Light to the eyes promoted by the Culture Department of the Council of Milan in the evocative setting of the Rotonda of Via Besana in Milan, from 31 March to 10 June 2007. The exhibition curated by Maurizio Sciaccaluga and Steve Della Casa presents meaningful works from the artistic career of Chiara Dynys, whose works make one reflect on the concept of space meant as geometrical, psychological and historical element. In all the installations light and colour are the main elements and are essential in order to perceive the environment, thought by the artist more as a mental than physical zone.

Sixteen installations created from the '90s to today (among them 5 works created specifically for this exhibition) form a path inside the Rotonda, establishing a sequence of environments which bring the visitor closer to a sensory and mind dimension.

The visitor goes through rooms that change in colour according to a rhythm that each one makes his own, he interacts with mirrored walls which carry antithetical and fundamental words, such as "all-nothing" or "dark-light". He stops in front of whole walls marked by lenticular elements which change according to the standing point of view, like in the room "Don't move" where for every tiny change of position corresponds a radical modification in the perception of the image: a bridge crowded with people suddenly collapses and rebuilds itself, the roof of a church suddenly falls down and then reconstructs as the audience passes by.

Maurizio Sciaccaluga says: "The visitor is invited to a sort of initiation journey: his senses and imagination form and dissolve. His sense of reality is affected. The observer is also observed, analyzed and questioned".

The theme of psychological mimicry (inherent in the social and interpersonal conventions) comes out in the works of the last years: in "Shanghai" of 2007, a forest of bright glass poles created for the occasion with fluorescent colours, neon lights of different colours and intensity, create a barricade which is also a passage to a new dimension of being; in "Tutto-niente/All-nothing" big grinded mirrors slowly allow the reading of hidden words; "Pesi Lievi/Light Weights" of 2001, where the virtual human figure (the naked body of the artist herself floating in water) interacts with the physical presence of matter; in the work "Born to be confused" (of 2004) 104 small coloured light boxes transform into words of opposite meaning while the visitor passes; in one of her last works, "Panopticon" of 2007, the architectural forms move together with the colours, representing an illuminist and reactionary utopia of the total control of human spaces; in "Viaggio in Sicilia/Journey through Sicily" of 2004 a series of black and white photographs on the background of a mirrored backstage panel illustrates and tells the story of a journey through the hidden Sicily; following an old railway road partly abandoned; at the centre of the Cupola della Besana is set the room

"Glitter Gates", a project which belonged to the prestigious Panza Di Biumo collection: entering this huge cube/monolith, the visitor dives into an atmosphere filled with saturated colour, which comes out from all the walls and the ceiling and suddenly changes through a sequence of six shades of colour; the heads of a man and a woman in "Near and far", taken from behind, turn but never get to look at each other or to the audience, underlining the theme of the impossibility of communication.

A room of the exhibition, the garden of diamonds and stars, can be admired only through small windows.

During the exhibition the short film "Made in China" (written and directed by Chiara Dynys in 2005 with the friendly presence of the actress Milena Vukotic) is shown.

The display is completed by a catalogue published by Electa, curated by Maurizio Sciacaluga, with texts by Maurizio Sciacaluga, Steve Della Casa, Dieter Ronte, Daniel Sherer, Giorgio Verzotti and an essay by Paolo Bercah on the outfitting project.

The exhibition also holds educational activities for children and teenagers as well as guided tours for schools, organized by Marte and called "Miraggi di luce/Light illusions".

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