

PRESS RELEASE

Raccontare un luogo - (Tales of a Place)

Curated by Lorenzo Bruni

Mario Airò, Mel Bochner, Cuoghi Corsello, Christian Jankowski, Suzanne Lacy, Maurizio Nannucci, Antonis Pittas, Nedko Solakov

Opening Saturday 6 June 2015 from 7pm

6 Jun – 7 Nov 2015

Galleria Enrico Astuni of Bologna presents, on Saturday 6 June 2015, from 7pm, a group show curated by Lorenzo Bruni, entitled *Raccontare un luogo - (Tales of a Place)*. The exhibition involves eight international artists, from different generations and cultural backgrounds, who have conceived and realised works specifically for the occasion.

The resulting interventions are of varying types, from neon texts to drawings, sound installations and sculptural objects, from photographic images to video, and are above all characterized as being devices which tell tales about a place, taking into account at the same time the context in which they are placed and, in some cases, overturning and exploring to the utmost limit the notion of the site specific. This approach is practiced by each artist using different materials and modes of expression which are, however, all characterized in the same way by the idea of translation, namely: what to translate, for whom and how? For this reason, their characterizations of the notion of the site specific present themselves as conditions of daily life, barely altered, which externalize the process of conflict/dialogue that society has always associated with the relationship between word and image, between a caption and the representation to which it refers, between the thing and its function.

The unique aspect of the project *Raccontare un luogo - (Tales of a Place)* is that it is not conceived as a theme show but, rather, as the creation of a platform upon which to discuss at a collective level the idea which animates the research of the various artists involved, rediscovering social and anthropological reasons behind their informal dialogical approach. As Lorenzo Bruni writes in his forthcoming book, which will be published and presented in September/October: *“Taking into consideration the artists who have worked on mechanisms for measuring mental and physical space (trying to make them co-exist) and who are at the same time confronted with the presence of the written word, means opening on the one hand a reflection on how the role and use of new media has changed over the last thirty years and, on the other, on how the perception of the word (on the part of the public) has changed due to the introduction of the “text message”, which leads us not to talk on the phone, but to observe it. From this point of view it is possible to reflect on the role of conceptual art and on the naming of things, but also on the role/capacity that images today have of containing information, enabled by the frame in which information is distributed in real time, overturning the role of the simple documentation of reality that was seen in the “illustrated magazines” of the past century. The question which emerges is: What are the nuances and implications of this way of interacting with the dematerialized world for the perception of art, for social interactions and for the preservation of the*

experience of some places rather than others?"

The artists involved in the project *Raccontare un luogo - (Tales of a Place)* are aware that the world has become in these last ten years smaller and more intimate precisely for the ability to be in contact with everyone and everything in the era of the global village. This new possibility, however, is neither cause nor effect for them, but the symptom of finding oneself in a post-colonialist, post-ideological period of hyper-communication.

This realization has led them to place importance on the terms and situations which evoke the experience of a place, rather than simply naming it or presenting it with real time images. For this reason the neon texts of **Maurizio Nannucci** (Florence, 1939; lives and works in Florence) are not only a reflection on language, on the naming of things and on tautology, but on the creation of a relationship with the physical space in which they are placed in order to determine a possible new vision for the use of that same space. For **Christian Jankowski** (Gottingen, 1968; lives and works in Berlin), Jankowski (Gottingen, 1968; lives and works in Berlin), always aims to create a forced and sometimes surreal dialogue between the public and private dimension, as for example in the video work "Tableau Vivant TV" made for the Sydney Biennial in 2010, about the preparation for the same show. This same charge is present in the work planned for the project in Bologna. The work, from the series "What still needs to be done" consist of a translation in neon writing of the notes taken from artist's notebook. It makes viable a place normally hidden to the public as the store room is used as a display space.

For **Suzanne Lacy** (Wasco, California, 1945; lives and works in Los Angeles) a place cannot ever be separated from the social conventions which characterize a particular space, and for this reason she aims always to make these dynamic cultural interpretations emerge establishing an interpretative tension. Meanwhile **Nedko Solakov** (Tcherven Briag, Bulgaria, 1957; lives and works in Sofia) works in terms of a narrative operation focused upon how a condition can be highlighted and how it can be modified with the imagination, realized through drawings on the theme of travel, as well as a reflection on the subject of "painting" by speaking about site specific interventions realized in different contexts. **Mel Bochner** (Pittsburgh, 1940; lives and works in New York) visualizes the tools which are used to measure the world, and through which we define what is real and what is, rather, an artistic product. The work, which consists of a grid painted on the wall juxtaposed with a plant asks in a practical way the question over what the point of reference for the observer is: that of representation and art or that of nature and the real object? **Mario Airò** (Pavia, 1961; lives and works in Milano) realizes objects of contradictory space, ranging from the use of books, neon tubes and audio works which open a particular reflection on the role and genesis of the creative act in general. **Antonis Pittas** (Atene, 1973; lives and works Amsterdam) creates a stratification between texts drawn in space that interact with marble forms from the same quarry from which the material for the Parthenon Marbles was mined. In so doing he suggests specific links between the idea of the past and current events related to the economic crisis in Greece. **Cuoghi Corsello** (Bologna, 1965 - Mantova, 1964; live and work in Bologna) who have always worked on the reversal of public and private and on the crossover between what comes to be considered vulgar and courtly art/official. For *Raccontare un luogo - (Tales of a Place)* the duo presented different "devices and compositions" (from a neon intervention to a wooden sculpture, from images on ceramic to video animation) through which they aim to establish an awareness of certain aspects of "shared spaces" that usually go unnoticed. From this approach follows the image for the exhibition invite, which consists of a detector of memory and space: is the image taken in 1990 at Bologna central station in which in addition to the tracks and the typical landscape of the "non place" (a definition popularised in those years by the philosopher Marc Augé). On the wall can be see painted *Pea Brain, a*

series of geese that seems to run (or chase each other). This image/postcard by Cuoghi Corsello, like the works of the other artists on show, serves as a reminder that the project, whilst talking about universal anthropological themes, of international artists and of different cultures, must not lose sight of the "context space / time" in which it occurs. This approach aims to demonstrate - via the works of these artists - that only by exploring the place from which we observe the world can we be present in the act of discovery, which goes beyond the simple fact of being connected to the places proposed to us by new media. As the curator, Lorenzo Bruni, writes "The works on display are all born from a consideration of different concepts of place and on the relation between imaginative space, crossed space, and the presence of the viewer. This, however, is only the point of departure, and not the end, taken in order to propose a new analysis of the various dynamics of storytelling activated in relation to the possibility of being a daily migrant, both on a physical and virtual level, and in respect of new technologies and the new possibility of archiving facts and places."

Mario Airò (1961, Pavia; Lives and works in Milan). Recently the artist opened an exhibition to Galleria Nazionale, Parma, IT, (2015); His main solo and group exhibitions include Villa Croce, Genoa (2013); GAM, Turin (2001); 51. Art Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia (2003); 47. Art Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia (1997).

Mel Bochner (Pittsburgh, PA, US, 1940, Lives and works in New York). His main solo and group exhibitions include The Jewish Museum, New York, NY (2014); Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany (2013); Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK (2012); National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC (2011).

Cuoghi Corsello (Bologna, 1965 - Mantova, 1964; Live and work in Bologna). Their main exhibitions include Fondazione del Monte, Bologna (2015); Elgiz Museum of Contemporary Art, Istanbul (2008); Urban Planning Exhibition Center, Shanghai (2006); Macro, Roma (2009); Creative Space Art Center, Beijing (2006); Galleria Civica di Arte Contemporanea, Trento (2001); Ente Fiera, Ancona (1993).

Christian Jankowski (Gottingen, 1968; Lives and works in Berlino). His main solo and group exhibitions include Katholische Akademie Schwerte, Germany, DE (2015); Proyectos Monclova, Mexico, MEX (2014); CCA Tel Aviv (2014); The Pavilion Downtown Dubai, Dubai (2013); Artspace Sydney, Sydney, NSW (2013); MACRO Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma, Rome (2012).

Suzanne Lacy (Wasco, California, 1945; Lives and works in Los Angeles). His main solo and group exhibitions include Museo Pecci, Milan (2014); Tate Modern, London (2013); Liverpool Biennial, UK (2012); The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, Los Angeles, CA (2011); Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA (2008).

Maurizio Nannucci (Firenze, 1939; Lives and works in Florence). The artist is going to open a major anthological exhibition at Museo Maxxi, Rome, (2015). He has participated in several editions of Documenta in Kassel, in addition to Biennals of Sao Paulo, Sydney, Istanbul and Valencia. His main solo and group exhibitions include Macro, Roma (2012); Art Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia Architettura (2000).

Antonis Pittas (GR, 1973. Lives and works in Amsterdam). His main solo and group exhibitions include Centre for Fine Art, Brussels (2014); 4th Athens Biennial, Athens (2013); 5th edition Biennial, Bucharest (2012); Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen (2011); *Interscape*, Stedelijk Museum Bureau, Amsterdam (2004).

Nedko Solakov (Tcherven Briag, Bulgaria, 1957; Lives and works in Sofia). His main solo and group exhibitions include Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg (2015); Museu de Arte Contemporanea Serralves, Porto (2012); Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst / S.M.A.K., Ghent (2012); Sofia City Gallery, Sofia (2009); 50. Art Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia (2001); 52. Art Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia (2003).