

EXACT FANTASY The colours of Bruno Munari's light

Curated by Betta Frigeri, Miroslava Hajek, Luca Panaro



Opening on Friday 19th September at 7 p.m.
Paggeria Arte, Piazzale della Rosa, Sassuolo, Italy
From 19 September to 26 October 2008

The exhibition located at Paggeria Arte, a venue owned by the Municipality of Sassuolo, Italy, presents the reconstruction of Bruno Munari's historic installations on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of his death (Milan 1907-1998). The purpose is to reflect upon Munari as an artist and precursor, in particular with the *Direct Projections* and *Polarized Light Projections*, works that anticipated multimedia video installations and influenced generations of contemporary artists.

The exhibition, curated by Betta Frigeri, Miroslava Hajek, Luca Panaro, is also related to this year *Festival Filosofia* theme, Imagination, and to the cultural event *Una città da sfogliare* that celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Public Library in Sassuolo.

“Exact Fantasy” is the goethian term used by Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti to define Munari’s work, a precious key to explore his artistic research. Through light and common material the artist created an outstanding image archive whose complex meaning is still to discover.

The works on view belong to the only collection chronologically ordered with a catalogue raisonné put together by its heiress Miroslava Hajek after working for forty years with this great artist.

Munari explored light, shadow and movement systematically in relation with space. In the 50’s Munari realized some works in miniature using painting, mixed media, collages of organic matter like onion peels, small nets, threads in different materials and coloured cling films. He inserted these concrete compositions between two slides into the projectors. The device took off any physical quality from the works recreating them through light and projecting them in monumental size. Munari used to say: “with a small slide you can paint a dome”. And also: “you can carry a whole exhibition just in your pocket”. As he did at MOMA in New York in 1954.

In the evenings of the Festival Filosofia (19, 20, 21 September) from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. Piazzale della Rosa will be “painted” by these previously unseen light installations rebuilt as Bruno Munari originally conceived them.

From *Direct Projections* in 1953 Munari switched over to *Polarized Light Projections* where the movement of colour decomposition comes from the rotation of a Polaroid filter fixed before the slide projector. In the same year he also experimented on abstract cinema succeeding in producing key works to investigate the artistic and aesthetic potentialities of this new medium. Using particular slides to polarize light in 1963 he shot together with Marcello Piccardo an experimental movie entitled *The colours of light*.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a prestigious catalogue published by APM Edizioni (Carpi), fully illustrated with large images in colour of the exhibited works featuring texts by Miroslava Hajek and Luca Panaro.

On the occasion of the Festival Filosofia

On Friday 19th, Saturday 20th, Sunday 21st September 2008

Open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

From 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. “Direct Projections” in Piazzale della Rosa, light installations by Bruno Munari



The exhibition is open until 26th October 2008, opening hours:

On Fridays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

On Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Paggeria Arte

Piazzale della Rosa, Sassuolo (Mo), Italy

(+39) 339 3766367 - (+39) 0536 1844718

info@associazione culturale bettafrigieri.it

www.associazione culturale bettafrigieri.it