

Villa Manin | Esedra di Levante
Passariano di Codroipo (Udine)

SOMEWHERE

LUISA MENAZZI MORETTI

curated by Valerio Dehò

12 March - 15 May 2016

Grand opening on Friday, 11 March at 6pm

press release, 13.01.16

From 12 March to 15 May 2016 a compelling photo gallery illustrates the landmarks of the artistic creative career of Luisa Menazzi Moretti, within the prestigious background of **Villa Manin - Esedra di Levante**.

“Somewhere. Luisa Menazzi Moretti” is curated by Valerio Dehò and organized by Azienda Speciale Villa Manin.

The lay-out of the exhibition runs through interlinked topics, that the artist presents in 5 series: *Cose di natura/Nature's Matters*, *Words*, *P Greco/P Greek*, *Solo* and *Ingredients for a Thought*, each one of which is a narration, a tale which investigates different themes linked to nature, the social sphere and the inner world, and which aims at creating multiple perspectives as well as promoting several interpretations, through a strong sharing quality.

Luisa Menazzi Moretti's photographs, that maintain throughout a consistency in their ways of expression, mirror a multi-faceted reality, the interpretation of which is completed by the presence and contribution of the spectator; it is a vision completely open to debate and sharing, that stimulates the beholders to imagine, think and express themselves.

In the 20 colour works from the series *Cose di natura/ Nature's Matters*, glimpses of reality lead to a metaphorical dimension, rich in emotions. The natural elements are in fact symbols hinting at beauty and balance, but also at desolation and waste, as in *Petalo e Foglia/Petal and Leaf* (2012), *Mare/Sea* (2014) or *Campo/Field* (2012). What emerges from nature is her strong regenerative quality and the chance of a never ending life, a life that goes on.

An inseparable link with words is instead created in *Words*, photographs where fragments of texts tell of shreds of stories, lives and moments, all moments that were eternalized before becoming lost, discharged or changed. Each image is put next to unpublished critical texts by famous people from the national cultural scene: intellectuals, writers, journalists, artists and critics among whom Alberto Abruzzese, Francesco Bonami, Elio De Capitani, Leandra D'Antone, Gabriele Frasca, Paolo Rossi and Tiziano Scarpa who don't intend to provide an interpretation but create further food for thought.

Very representative is *Anima/Soul* (2013), the topic of which is a letter by an inmate from the Dachau concentration camp, where its words are full of hope, unaware of a tragically determined fate. In this section what emerges is also the importance of words and writing in the life experiences of the artist; a small group of autobiographical images are inspired by Luisa Menazzi Moretti's childhood and the significant events in her life.

The two following rooms have a strong impact: their lay-out envisions darkened spaces and a musical background, that contributes to underline a game of light and shadows, a characteristic element of the whole exhibition. *P Greco/P Greek*, accompanied by the song "Paradise Circus" by Massive Attack, gathers photos dedicated to the symbolism of the circle, highlighting some aspects linked to it. For example in the photographs: *Whenua*, named after a word from the

Mahori language with a double meaning, "earth" and "placenta"; *Imprevisto/Unexpected*, that hints at the surprise element in a too honest and monotonous life; *Testimone/Eyewitness*, an eyeball meant as a record of life experiences; *Fuga/Escape*, a circular hole within the cracks of a wall from where to escape.

Consistent with an artistic search that crosses over reality is the series *Solo* - most recent and never seen before -, that is well matched with the notes of "21 Grammi/21 Grams" by Ludovico Einaudi and which is described by the curator Valerio Dehò as follows: "*the series 'Solo' probably represents at its best the sensitivity of Menazzi Moretti in regards to that something that we can't specifically point out, something in fact always fleeting, but that we can only place somewhere else in the meaning that it is simply not here, next to us*". Through these photos the artist imagines a dimension out of time and imparts the moods of a journey towards the unknown by using faces of men, women and children. The use of filters and overlapping contributes to create a suspension, a sort of detachment, the projection of a supernatural reality. This is clear, for example, in *Solo #10*, *Solo #1*, *Solo #8*, where feelings of uncertainty, uneasiness and peace alternate.

The exhibition ends with the series *Ingredients for a Thought* which deeply analyzes the theme of nutrition: in it the author recognizes the absolute language of contemporary societies and, through a rich sequence of symbols linked to colour, childhood, and words, such as in *Christmas Balls*, *The Choice* and *Drop*, she recreates a vivid dimension where food becomes the intermediary between senses and recollection.

The exhibition is accompanied by a **catalogue** published by Gente di Fotografia with Italian and English texts by Luisa Menazzi Moretti, Valerio Dehò and Antonio Giusa.

Short biography

Luisa Menazzi Moretti was born in Udine in 1964. She moved with her family to the United States when she was thirteen; she was educated in Texas, first in College Station where she attended the high school and then in Houston for part of her academic education. During those years, she began cultivating her passion for photography; she attended courses, favouring printing and black and white development. She then got back to Europe, got her MA in Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, worked in London and, after three years, she moved to Italy. She lived in Udine, Bologna, Rome, Naples and Venice.

Her works have been exhibited in museums and galleries and entered several international collections.

Arte'm published two books of Luisa Menazzi Moretti: *Words* (2013) and *Nature's Matters* (2014). Her exhibitions have been curated and presented by Denis Curti, Achille Bonito Oliva, Francesco Bonami, Fortunato D'Amico and Maria Flora Giubilei.

Currently the artist is represented by DAFNA Home Gallery, Due Piani Gallery and La Salizada Gallery.

Exhibition details

Title Somewhere. Luisa Menazzi Moretti

Curated by Valerio Dehò

Venue Villa Manin - Esedra di Levante, Passariano di Codroipo (Udine)

Dates 12 March - 15 May 2016

Grand opening Friday, 11 March at 6pm

Opening hours Tuesday - Friday from 3pm to 7pm; Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 7pm

Monday closed except on 28 March, 25 April, 1 and 6 May (open 10am-7pm)

Entrance free admission

Info to the public Ph. +39 0432 821211 - info@villamanin.it - www.villamanin.it

Press Office

IBC Irma Bianchi Communication

Ph. +39 02 8940 4694 - Mob. +39 328 5910857 - info@irmabianchi.it

text and image downloads from www.irmabianchi.it