



Galleria Milano

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PRESS RELEASE

MANUELA CIRINO

L'IMMAGINE NEGATA #2 open/close

Curated by Olga Gambari

Opening: Tuesday, May 13th, 2014

Exhibition dates: May 14th – 10th September 2014

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm and from 4 to 8 pm

Closed works, open works. Images, suggestions, personal relationships that will turn out to be unexpected and free. “The denied image”, a project by Manuela Cirino, enters a new phase, a vital evolution, again focused on the possibility of reconstructing the identity of an artwork through the eyes of others.

Here is how it works: the viewer comes to *Galleria Milano* and sees the seven “closed works”, exhibited in the first room. Then, he or she is encouraged to make an empathetic choice and pick “his” or “her” work. Subsequently, each viewer makes a reservation and, at the arranged date, collects the piece and gives it a home for an established time, turning it into an “open work”. From that moment, a relationship begins, a unique personal history: the artwork gets out, breathes, settles down, interacts. Seven pieces in stand-by, waiting to find a place, in order to reveal what they keep inside. Once they are

returned to the gallery, a new exhibition will be held, with all the “open” works and the written accounts collected in the travel journals that come with each of them.

The invitation for the exhibit, therefore, is just the first stage of the “Denied image” project, which will later take place in the everyday intimacy of each house, in a journey full of stopovers. The second room in the gallery will show the five “open works” from the “Denied image” exhibition at Galleria Martano, held in April 2012, and the commentaries, drawings, sketches documenting the journey they embarked on together with their foster owners, who chose them and kept them in their homes.

Manuela Cirino tells us about a primary need of contemporary art and contemporary artists, which is also a public’s right. We live immersed in an ambiguous, listless visual perception, in which all images are alike: thus, access to the image of the artwork is denied, both to trigger its potential and to focus the attention on its subject matter, giving it the time and care it requires in order to reveal itself. The viewer’s participation, then, becomes an indispensable element in this revelation process.

Looking at these reserved artworks, we enter the realm of a hidden space, a precious secret waiting to establish a personal relationship with us. The intimacy of this encounter gives immediacy to such perceptive relation.

The reflection on the situation of contemporary society, its lack of contact and interaction with the physical world of things, the dematerializing colonization by the digital, permeates the very act of configuration of Cirino’s own works.

20th-Century avant-garde engaged with some breaks toward imagination, wonderful, visionary resources implicating the viewer as a person. They inspired, they suggested, they encouraged a more articulated way of thinking, through which a hypothesis of the Future was put into play, with a significant shift from the idea of a continuous present as the only conceivable dimension of time.

Each of the exhibited artworks travels together with its own personal diary. A place where it becomes possible to tell the experience of one’s own relationship with the work itself; to be witnesses of it, if and the ways one wishes to.

A proposal, an offer. Not a request.

Manuela Cirino lives and works in Novara. She had individual exhibitions at Galleria Martano in Turin, Galleria Minini in Brescia, Galleria Ciocca Arte Contemporanea and Galleria Valeria Bevedere in Milan, Care Of in Cusano Milanino. She also took part to group exhibitions at Galleria il Vicolo in Genoa and Mar & Partners Art Gallery in Turin. On an international level, she exhibited at Gallery 101 in Ottawa and Stadtgalerie in Kiel.

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