

Press release

Muratcentoventidue-Artecontemporanea

**Elena Bellantoni**

**Looking for E.B.**

curated by Eleonora Farina

Galleria Muratcentoventidue pursues its exhibition program presenting “Looking for E.B.”, a solo show of Elena Bellantoni, curated by Eleonora Farina.

E.B., the protagonist of the last video by the Roman artist Elena Bellantoni (1975), plays a life story and reenacts a family story; while defining herself, she gives sense and meaning to her family unit and to her role within it.

*Looking for E.B.* puts the viewer into an awkward emotional world, in which the audio is punchy, the definition of the objects is meticulous and E.B.’s movements are at the same time fearful and wary.

The use of the double video projection, which strengthens a sympathetic feeling towards the protagonist, and the employ of close-ups, which highlight repeated and almost dubbed gestures, create an indissoluble link between the main character and the female context, in which she acts, but also stress the anxiety of being confronted with the self, first as a being and then as a woman. On one side of the screening E.B. wanders around in a pharmacy, among bottles, test-tubes and several kinds of powders; on the other side the group of women occupies a space whose spatial boundaries are defined only by a dense light. In most of Bellantoni’s production the discovery and the delimitation of a place become simultaneously an implementation of the self and a definition of her own position (she is usually the main character in her own videos).

E.B.’s presence within the female community and a preconceived family system is underlined by a

vivid blue stain on her white blouse (during the Counter-Reformation that was the colour of the medicines used on women to fight hysteria and sorcery).

The color blue on white background is also the key element of the five big canvases that accompany the video and stands in vivid contrast against the less sharp video images; it is as if E.B. managed to finish her woven fabric and peacefully reconstructed the past through her paintings. It is important, up to a certain point, to be conscious of the references to the artist's personal story; and maybe it is also not necessary to know that *Looking for E.B.* is the second chapter of a trilogy (started in 2011 with *La ragazza dello Spielplatz*). E.B. could also stand for Effi Briest, who is the character created by the writer and pharmacist Theodor Fontane. Elena Bellantoni 's plot is well beyond all this: it is the story of a woman whose identity as an artist/protagonist is defined only and exclusively by the relation with the self as an/other (as in *Ich bin... du bist* of 2010).

*Eleonora Farina*

Venue

Muratcentoventidue-Artecontemporanea  
Via G. Murat 122/b – Bari

Opening

Saturday September the 29th, 2012 at 7 pm

Period

September the 29th – October the 24th 2012

Opening hours

from Tuesday to Saturday, from 5.30 to 8.30 pm

Info

393.8704029 – 392.5985840

HYPERLINK "<mailto:info@muratcentoventidue.com>" [info@muratcentoventidue.com](mailto:info@muratcentoventidue.com)

HYPERLINK "<http://www.muratcentoventidue.com>" [www.muratcentoventidue.com](http://www.muratcentoventidue.com)