

PRESS RELEASE

MURATCENTOVENTIDUE ARTECONTEMPORANEA

THE STONE IN MY MOUTH IS A BAIT

Barbara Brugola, Trond Arne Vangen

Galleria Muratcentoventidue Artecontemporanea is pleased to present the exhibition entitled "*THE STONE IN MY MOUTH IS A BAIT*" which is the result of a collaboration between Barbara Brugola and the Norwegian artist Trond Arne Vangen.

The two artists reflect on the experience of physical and psychological violence to which women are often victims investigating that dark territory represented by the traumatic event.

The trauma can be called an unexpected and too intense event that breaks into the psychic life of a subject by interrupting the narrative plot of its experience; the fact that all this is violent and unexpected makes it difficult for the subject to integrate it in the memory of its experience by giving it a meaning.

This event leaves a scar in the unconscious mind of the subject and emerges at the surface, unexpectedly, when a cause, perhaps insignificant, has the effect of bringing it back to consciousness and create suffering. No matter how one tries to translate this unease through the language: there are always some residues that function as a trigger to stage again the response to the traumatic past event.

Hence the exhibitions project *THE STONE IN MY MOUTH IS A BAIT* which involved the two artists mapping out a device to capture fragments, traces, suggestions of what has been hidden, deposited, in part absorbed but not inactive.

The pre-text of this work was "*Le déjeuner sur l'herbe*" by Manet where three characters having a breakfast in the open air are represented, including a undressed woman who seems the only one to turn her gaze to what she is facing.

In the exhibition there is the 2-channel video "*Picnic*" where another breakfast on the grass has been staged featuring as protagonist a female figure while other characters are only evoked. Having a picnic is by definition a time of small exchanges and shares, a kind of space and time destined for recreation and nourishment.

Picnic ranges from a light atmosphere that soon becomes disturbing, revealing that, under the apparent tranquility of the surface, there is always a switch that, when pushed, urges fear and despair. Appetizing foods are in sequence with other unappetizing ones and the mouth that tastes the food is shaken by a persistent cough that gradually becomes more and more troublesome. In the video pleasure and satisfaction collide with revulsion and disgust recalling that often experiences related to the senses of the body, are powerful and able to create new spaces for the interpretation of reality.

"*The Basket*" combines the metal jaws of a fox trap with the willow used to build a picnic basket, connecting the negative and positive values associated with both while keeping intact the function of each. "*The Cloth*" is instead an installation of painted stones scattered on the floor of the gallery. Both works are inspired by the video and were created by the artist Trond Arne Vangen changing and combining fragments of reality: they still have the appearance of everyday life objects, but they have lost their simple tranquility.

In the exhibition there are three photographic prints by Barbara Brugola inspired by photos taken by camera traps, those devices that combine the classic camera to a sensor that snaps to the passage of a living being. The pictures so obtained do not always capture and pose what one is looking for, but doubtless they can stop an instant on which, nor the one who is taken, nor that one has focused the trap, could exercise control.

The device developed by the two artists is, as expected, the prop of their initial intention more than an effective tool to fix what is by nature elusory, but offering to the eye of the observer the possibility of participating in the vision and produce meaning.

Venue

Muratcentoventidue - Artecontemporanea

Via G. Murat 122/b – Bari

Opening

Saturday May 21st, 2016 at 7.00 pm

Period

May 21 – June 30 2016

Opening hours

from Tuesday to Saturday, from 5.00 to 8.00 pm

Info

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Barbara Brugola (Monza, 1965) lives and works in Milan and Trento. Graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts of Brera, she received the Master of Arts at the Royal College of Art (London, 1998). She exhibited in solo exhibitions at Gallery Muratcentoventidue (Bari, 2014), Sound of Mu (Oslo, 2009 and 2007), T293 (Naples, 2002), Careof (Cusano Milanino, 2001). Her works have been shown at institutions such as Il Museo del Novecento (Milan, 2013), Spazio Gerra (Reggio Emilia, 2008), Il Filatoio (Caraglio, 2007), the Museum of Contemporary Art in Nuoro (Nuoro, 2004) Il Palazzo delle Stelline (Milan, 2004). Among the most recent group exhibitions "Digital Flows" (MACT / CACT, Bellinzona, 2016), "Suspended territories and other Italian stories", (Muu Gallery, Helsinki, 2015), "Videozero –Il punto della situazione(Galleria Rivoli 2", Milan, 2015), "The Others Fairs" (Turin, 2014), "White Canvas" (Museum Tärli Crisurilor, Romania, 2014). Her videos were selected in many festivals, among others: Videoart Yearbook Bologna, Torino Film Festival and Visionaria in Siena, where she won in 2003 "Il Premio della Critica". Among the most recent participations "In your dreams I am a Landscape" (Ateliersi, Bologna, 2015), "Over the Real" (GAMC, Viareggio, 2015), "Proyector15" (Madrid, 2015). She has exhibited in non-profit spaces as Viafarini and Careof (Milan), Velan Art Center (Turin), Galleria Nuvole (Palermo), Cork Film Center (Dublin), K3 Space Project (Zurich).

Trond Arne Vangen (Odda, Norway, 1969) lives and works in Oslo (Norway). He graduated BA (Hons) Degree in Fine Arts from the University of Coventry in 1996. He has participated in several solo exhibitions, group and cooperative exhibitions in Norway in all Europe over the past two decades.

We may mention Momentum Art Biennial in Moss (Norway), Watertower Art Fest in Sofia (Bulgaria), the Venice Biennale (1999), Ark 2000 in London, Belgrade Art Fair in Belgrade (Serbia), RAM Gallery in Oslo. His work has been selected for numerous festivals across Europe, most recently at the International Video Art Festival Viareggio, Muu Gallery (Helsinki), Projector15 (Madrid).

He has been active in the alternative cultural scene in Oslo, having participated in the management of three different exhibition spaces in the same period: the G.U.N. galleries and Sound of Mu that have been for many years the reference points of the alternative art scene in Oslo. He is currently Responsible Director for “Halden Art Union” (Norway).

For more information: <https://trondarnevangen.wordpress.com/>