

O.Z.

A project by Otto Zoo in collaboration with the Hotel Locarno and with curatorial contribution of Ilaria Gianni

Third episode:

MARIA MORGANTI - MATTEO NUCCI

15 May - 13 July 2014

OPENING: Wednesday 14 May 2014, 7 p.m.

Via della Penna 59 - 00186 ROMA

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Maria Morganti, *Nel travertino (In Travertine)*, detail, 26 x 18 cm, modelling clay and travertine stone, Venice, 2012

Rome, April 2014

A Work in Five Parts Inside and Outside of Four Windows: promoted by the Galleria OTTO ZOO in collaboration with the Hotel Locarno, the third episode of O.Z. is the outcome of a four-handed work that interweaves the colour and paint of the artist Maria Morganti with the words of the writer Matteo Nucci.

The four windows are those of the Hotel Locarno at Via della Penna in Rome. This has always been a place of cultural encounters and it is now at the forefront of this exhibition and literary project, which consists of four episodes, with the curatorial contribution of Ilaria Gianni.

After the dialogues of Sebastiano Mauri and Elena Stancanelli, Serena Vestrucci and Vincenzo Latronico, the story continues with this new episode, which Maria Morganti and Matteo Nucci are dedicating to Rome, a city that is a true symbol of stratification and memory.

Morganti's work in five parts has been created for the windows, which are an unexpected space in that they give onto both inside and outside, creating a relationship with the city and with its "concentration of human experience."

The works created by the artist emerge from a layering of colour - superimposing the yellow, orange and ochre of the city - and bringing about a dialogue between the paint, the travertine and the stone. The works are formed by traces and impressions that the artist leaves to settle, in a creative process based on a repeated, declared gesture that becomes physical matter. Each part is linked to one aspect of the history of Rome: its historical narrative, the accumulation of time, the archaeological stratification, and individual and collective memory.

Filtered by personal experience, this same history has led to the creation of *I diari di via dell'Oca e via della Penna* ("The diaries of Via dell'Oca and Via della Penna"), an unpublished text, written for the occasion by Matteo Nucci. This is a profound, intimate reflection on the essence of the city, discovered and experienced by a single point of view during different existential phases. The text will be performed, through a live reading, for the first time at the opening by actress Valentina Carnelutti.

The interpretation of the site-specific installations is entrusted to the words of some of the most interesting exponents of today's literary scene in Italy, giving rise not only to a dialogue between voices of the contemporary world, but also to a tale that interweaves words and images. The next episode of the O.Z. cycle will see **T-yong Chung** interacting with **Francesco Pacifico**.

Maria Morganti graduated from the Accademia di Brera in Milan and received her MA from New York University. She has shown her works in solo exhibitions at leading institutions and non-profit spaces, including: Fondazione Querini Stampalia and Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Venice; Museo Castelvecchio, Verona; Via Farini, Milano; Casa Testori, Novate Milanese. She has also had solo exhibitions at international galleries: Florence Lynch Gallery, New York, Galerie S65, Cologne, Arnaud Lefebvre, Paris, OTTO ZOO, Milan, and Caterina Tognon, Venice. In 2010 her *Diari incrociati*, an artist's book in the form of a diary, was published by Corraini.

Matteo Nucci made his debut in 2009 with *Sono comuni le cose degli amici* (Ponte alle Grazie), which made him one of the five finalists in the Premio Strega 2010. In 2011 his novel-essay *Il toro non sbaglia mai* was published (Ponte alle Grazie). A scholar of the ancient world, in 2009 Einaudi published his *Simposio* di Platone. In 2013, Einaudi also published his *Le lacrime degli eroi*. His stories have appeared in leading literary magazines such as *Il Caffè Illustrato* and *Nuovi Argomenti*. He regularly writes reports and articles on culture and society for publications such as *Il Venerdì di Repubblica*, *La Repubblica* and *Il Messaggero*, as well as on the *minima & moralia* and *Nuovi Argomenti* websites.

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