



PRESS RELEASE

MILI ROMANO, *Italia*

Project for 150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy

MAMbo – Museo d'Arte Moderna of Bologna

29 November 2011 – 29 January 2012

From 29 November 2011 to 29 January 2012 the MAMbo – Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna is hosting *Italia*, a new project by Mili Romano created especially for the spaces of the Permanent Collection. The work, which consists of the screening of a **video** and the staging of an **action-performance**, both entitled *Italia*, takes as its starting point a quotation from Giacomo Leopardi's *Discorso sopra lo stato presente dei costumi degl'italiani* and brings to an ideal conclusion the series of initiatives promoted by the Galleria d'Arte Moderna in Bologna on the occasion of the **celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of the Unification of Italy**.

In the video work, made at the beginning of 2011, Mili Romano proposes a **personal exploration of the story of the Italian Republic**, in which autobiographical memories are interwoven with emblematic events in the country's contemporary history. The artist interprets the difficult process of planning and maintaining the unity of the country by representing an allegorical movement of hands playing a game that incessantly rearranges its different geographical regions.

The location of the **work** will not be fixed but will change every week, so that it is positioned at different points on the route through the display of the Permanent Collection that visitors will have to discover for themselves. Thus *Italia* will be a moment of construction of a time and space in the museum that are 'different' from the usual ones of exhibitions and the art system, suggesting a new opening towards other ideas and digressions.

The screening of the video will be accompanied by an **action** of the same name, which is nothing but an interaction with it: for the first three weeks, until 18 December 2011, at 3:30 pm every day, the artist, seated on a chair that belonged to her grandparents, will read some passages from a work of Italian literature for several minutes and at the end will put down the chosen book.

The first books will be selected by the artist and will then be joined by ones recommended by friends and the public.

When the artist is absent, anyone who wishes to contribute will be able to read extracts from a book, in accordance with a model of collective participation that Mili Romano has been practicing and encouraging for years.

Biographical notes

Mili Romano (Syracuse, 1953) is an artist and curator. She teaches cultural anthropology at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Bologna. She specializes in urban anthropology and art in public spaces. Her interests include literature, video-art and installations of photography and public art. Her choices of methodology require a profound understanding of the places and memories into which she inserts her artistic practice. Collection of the testimonies and stories of ordinary people in the field is almost always part of the process of generation of the work, open to changes in the course of its development in relation to contributions and circumstances. For this reason much of Mili Romano's activity is carried out in the environs of Bologna, where she has been living and working for years.

Here, at the request of the association of relatives of the victims of the bombing on 2 August 1980, she organized, with Roberto Daolio, the annual event 'Accademia in Stazione' ('Academy in the Station') from 1997 to 2005 and, with Gino Gianuzzi, the project entitled 'Container.

Osservatorio/laboratorio mobile d'arte pubblica' ('Container. Mobile Observatory/Workshop of Public Art'), which operated in various parts of the San Donato district from November 2007 to June 2008.

In 2007 her video-poem *Il Rumore del tempo* (*The Noise of Time*), assembled from images shot in Bologna in 1977 by a group of students, together with Gianni Celati and others, was presented simultaneously, in collaboration with the Galleria NEONcampobase, at many of the country's venues for art and culture, including: Museo Pecci, Prato; MUSEION, Bolzano; Galleria Civica d'Arte Contemporanea, Monfalcone; GAM Torino, Turin; Galleria Lungomare, Bolzano; UN.DO. Network; Galleria Civica d'Arte Contemporanea Montevergini, Syracuse; The British School at Rome. It was also shown as a video installation at the Festival dei Popoli in Florence.

In 2011 she concluded perhaps her most demanding work, 'Cuore di pietra' ('Heart of Stone'), a project of public art that since 2005 has involved the community and territory of Pianoro in a long process of reappropriation of its own history and spaces through the presence of numerous fine artists, called on to work with and for the inhabitants of the town.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

Title:

Mili Romano, *Italia*

Venue:

MAMbo – Museo d'Arte Moderna of Bologna
Collezione Permanente
Via Don Minzoni 14 - 40121 Bologna - I

Period:

29 November 2011 – 29 January 2012

Work:

Mili Romano, *Italia*
video on DVD, 2011
length 3' 5"

Action:

Mili Romano, *Italia*
from 29 November to 18 December 2011
on the museum's days of opening, 3:30 pm

Opening hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 12.00 – 18.00
Thursday 12.00 – 22.00
Saturday, Sunday and holidays 12.00 – 20.00
closed on Monday

Entrance:

full € 6; reduced € 4
free entry every Wednesday to the Permanent Collection



For further information:
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MAMbo is supported by:



Partnership with:



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