



“...Strange condition is that of the whole of existence, in which everything flows like water flows, but in which solely the events that mattered, rather than settle on the bottom, emerge to the surface and reach the sea with us”: Marguerite Yourcenar thus explains the title of the book containing *Anna*, *Soror...*, *An Obscure Man*, and *A Lovely Morning*.

on the surface, the meaning of the deep

AMY D Arte Spazio presents:

Il disegno dell'acqua

by

MARIELLA GHIRARDANI

from February 2nd to February 19th, 2017

opening February 2nd, 6.30 pm

critical essay: Rosella Ghezzi

“To portray an idea of space: this is what I began to work on. This is the main lesson that Master Hidetoshi Nagasawa gave me. The very first task that he gave me, as a student, was to draw the water: this affected deeply my future steps.

Everything can be found in water: movement, light, depth, life. In water there are spatial relationships, which you have to know how to capture, all at once, if you wish to render its meaning. To seize the water is like breaking through a wall. When you understand the water, you understand the space. Until you remove all **that is superfluous.**”

“My way of working is not strictly tied neither to painting nor sculpture, but rather to the artwork itself. Although sometimes I may feel the need of a canvas, or to produce an artwork that has to be hanged on a wall ... I still remain a sculptress who creates works for the ground or the wall, on paper or on canvas. The void is part of all my works. It highlights everything that is concrete and tangible, and it emphasizes, by detecting it, what could usually escape: the outline of the work ... the space, the air. In my recent sculptures, the void is obtained with the matter itself and through the use of reflective surfaces. The matter, by reflecting itself, reveals a bit of his inner self. In general, my sculptures are made of several elements, and when the different elements reflect into each other, each becomes the other's heart and soul. The mirror thus becomes a sort of window that can show something from the inside.”

Il disegno dell'acqua is a pathway that summarizes all the different aspects of Mariella Ghirardani artistic research, but it is also – and, perhaps, above all – the narrative of an aesthetic and spiritual formation, carried out under the watchful and millennial aegis of nature.

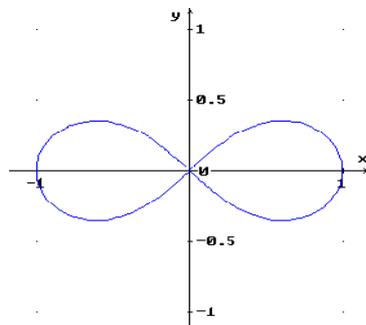
In a Freudian process applied to painting, recognisable appearances emerge as oneiric and almost musical memories of a journey made within the memory of travels. That of Mariella Ghirardani is a journey toward any East: an "inside" that is within painting. There is nothing descriptive or anecdotal in her pointing towards the representation of essences. In some of her works, the Enso symbolism, connected with the Western lemniscate, becomes the expression of the infinite that combines the visible and the hidden, the simple and the profound, the emptiness and the fullness. Thus, not only a simple circle drawn with a single and broad brush stroke, but the symbol of the infinite, the void, the 'non-thing', the perfect Satori meditative state (the experience of the awakening, understood in the spiritual sense, in which there would be no difference

between the one who "understands" and the object of observation). In the artist's work, the two realities merge into a single entity, in which the past and the present simultaneously co-exist, in the cutting of the space, as a fixed backdrop.

Mariella Ghirardani is an intense source of ideas that lead her to work with a surprising variety of languages, freely associating intuitions and pulsions to materials, pigments, and volumes.

The results of this research are different, but they are all connected by a deep sense of transcendence and by a sense of the sacred that she searches and tracks mainly in the nature, understood as a space open to *relations*. The artist looks at the nature by keeping alive the charm of inspiration, in its oldest meaning: for Mariella Ghirardani is an artist enlightened by her own inspiration. One can tell by seizing the concentration with which she tells her works, in the way she moves among them in her workshop, in the way she moves them and observes them. She always seems to see them for the first time, ready to light up to each new inner suggestion.

The artist has a complex creative imagination, where art, philosophy and poetry interact with the psychological investigation. With these tools, which she handles in an extraordinary way, she draws her interior "landscapes". Thus, she creates works that are often hosting great silences, and evoking wide spaces, and where, with metropolitan intermittencies, she toughens and refines her turmoils.



Born in Parma, Mariella Ghirardani lives and works in Milan.

Among her solo exhibitions: those at the Casa degli Artisti in Milan (in 1985, 1988, 1997, 2000); Galleria Marianne Maier, Milan, 1995; Galleria Fabia Calvasina, Milan, 1997; Spaziotemporaneo gallery, Milan, and Studio Cristina Del Ponte, Locarno, Switzerland, 2002; **"Occhio di strega"** (14/02-14/03, 2007) and **"Mariposa"** (17/10-17/11, 2012), at the Spaziotemporaneo gallery in Milan, both curated by Federico Sardella.

She has participated at the XL Esposizione Biennale Internazionale d'Arte, Magazzini del Sale (Venice, 1982), at the main exhibitions organized by the Casa degli Artisti, both in Milan and in other locations, and at the XIII International Sculpture Biennale of Carrara in 2006. Among her group exhibitions: **"Fabbrica. Nuova arte contemporanea"**, ex Fabbrica Mida, Brescia, 1989; **"Trattative con Euclide"**, (1992), **"Disordine"** (1993) and **"Le ombre nel cassetto"** (1994), Spaziotemporaneo, Milan; **"Scossa"**, Care/of, Cusano Milanino (MI), 1994; **"Immagine rinnovata"**, Antico Monastero delle Agostiniane, Monte Carasso, Bellinzona, Switzerland, 1999; **"Segno e Materia"**, Villa Borromeo, Senago (MI), 2004; **"La Mente e il Giudizio"**, Fondazione Mudima, Milan, 12-23/12 2013; **"Katten Kabinet"**, MARS, Milan, May 2016; **"No Place 2"**, castle of Fombio (Lodi), March 2016; **"In principio è la Terra"**, fort of Gavi (AL), 27/05-15/09 2016.