

Sergio Breviario

L'erba del re non fa crescere i fiori

Preview Friday 8 October 2010 at 6 pm

8 October – 9 December 2010

Fabio Tiboni - Sponda

via Del Porto 50d-52/a, 40122 Bologna, Italy

tel/fax +39 051 6494586

www.fabiotiboni.it

Sergio Breviario's first solo exhibition at the Fabio Tiboni gallery is conceived of as a physical and mental voyage for the spectator through a labyrinth created within the exhibition space. The exhibition thus assumes its own identity as if it was the body of a giant sculpture welcoming the spectator and guiding them along a predetermined path. From his debut Breviario has used diverse media for his expressive needs, managing them like a magician (the drawings are entirely of paintings, the sculptures only become such within the spaces which host them): he has conceived of the route through this exhibition as a journey in which we find ourselves encountering a series of works prepared especially for this occasion.

In the first room the spectator encounters a 'head', a recurrent theme/image in the artist's poetics, which presents itself here as a sculpture in steel and plaster and has a photo mounted on a light-box for a face; the head, figuratively evoked by its position at the extremity of the sculpture, is a place where ideas can be born. We then enter the labyrinth whose dimensions and proportions are the result of the division of the gallery spaces throughout which a sculptural element repeats itself; this presence, whose identity remains intentionally ambiguous, is nevertheless comforting; the form is very similar to some South-East Asian sculptures which have Shiva's erect phallus as their subject; its quality is to be sizeless and to function on different scales whilst never losing its intrigue. It takes on the role of a person/sign which guides us in the right direction. The tiny room in the middle of the gallery is transformed into the room of the drawings: resting on shelves on its painted walls – alternately in blue and in white polka dots on a black background– and thus strongly influenced by the vision of itself, we are invited to stare at a rotating spiral placed in the centre of the room which pushes us to modify our normal ways of "seeing", drunk with the optical illusion which it provokes. Leaving we find ourselves in front of another 'head', "Otto", the very same which welcomes us in the gallery's second space; so the same 'head' presents itself in two versions. In the first what is offered is a daytime and introverted vision which obliges us to grasp the images (and thus the thought) spying through the holes excavated by the artist in the surface of the sculpture. In the second case we have a nocturnal 'head', extroverted, which through the shadow of a lamp and optical lenses placed inside project the forms of his ideas onto the walls.

A final reflection on the title from the words of Breviario himself "...to give you the only reason I chose this title: I intended this phrase as a sort of collage, composed of words which conjure up simple images in the mind: the king, grass, and flowers, so the phrases are clear as mental images, but obscure in their meaning. This is the same method I use to produce my exhibitions. From an assemblage of elements which are as clearly defined as possible to the eye, to the search for the purest complementarity, these elements change their nature in a definitive and radical manner, originating new visions."

The exhibition is documented by a poster-leaflet with a text by Ludovico Pratesi.

Sergio Breviario lives and works between Bergamo and Milan. Main exhibitions: E' ospite solo verso sera, (with Davide Rivalta), curated by Davide Ferri, Fabio Tiboni Arte Contemporanea, Bologna; Non voltarti adesso./Don't look now. Artisti italiani a Ca' Pesaro, curated by Milovan Farronato, Ca' Pesaro, Venice; Diciannove novantasei: mi edificio e ti guardo, curated by Milovan Farronato, Viafarini, Milan. Collections: MART, Biedermann Collection, Collezione Tullio Leggeri.

Ludovico Pratesi is an art critic and curator. He is Artistic Director of the Centre of Visual Arts in Pesaro, scientific curator of Palazzo Fabroni and Director of the Guastalla Foundation for Contemporary Art. He is President of the Italian section of the AICA and advisor to AMACI (the Association of Italian Contemporary Art Museums). He is a critic for the daily newspaper La Repubblica.

