

SOPHIE KO CHKHEIDZE
SILVA IMAGINUM

Curated by Federico Ferrari

Inauguration, Monday, May 11, 2015, from 18:00

Renata Fabbri is pleased to announce the exhibition *Silva imaginum* by Sophie Ko Chkheidze (Tbilisi, Georgia - 1981). This Georgian artist, who has been living in Italy for some years now, presents a series of works sharing similar materials and supports but are part of a single symbolic and allegorical trajectory aimed at investigating the enigma of the image: its genesis, fragile existence, death, and metamorphic resurrection.

In the first room, in counterpoint to a few large black panels, which stand like gothic windows bearing the ashes of images (*Hymns to the Night*), we find a small painting with pure sky-blue pigment (*Die blau Blume*), displayed at eye level. A little further ahead, almost unnoticed and to the side, is a "fresco" made of dirt that will give balance and roots to this metaphysical dialogue and duel between ash and color. Next is another room where, arranged at the four cardinal points, small fragments of incombustible remains stand out: fragments of images that, totally incomprehensibly and unexpectedly, have been saved from the fury of flames. A metaphor of "what remains" within a society of the spectacle, where images are burned at incredible speed, thus making obsolete all forms and all "imagination" in few years, if not few months.

On the gallery's lower floor is another series of incombustible remains, titled *Waldgaenger* (homage and reference to the work of Ernst Jünger and his "rebel" figure who struggled against the destructive frenzy of nihilist society), and seems to indicate the possibility of salvation or, at least, hinting the way towards a large pink panel (*Dawn*), where the collapse and motion of color seem to show how the shapes (well beyond any will or intention, including the artist's) cannot stop appearing even when all seems lost.

In the last room is the sudden appearance of a "large glass" where life is conserved (small bird's nest twigs, butterflies, etc.), and becomes a sign, index, and symbol of a present world, where all existence receives the grace of its presence. A world - where silent tributes to the work of Claudio Parmiggiani may also be heard - that is, perhaps, even beyond images and that which survives of images in the devastation of the iconosphere, as what is called today, as an analogy with the atmosphere, the cultural climate which we breathe daily in our - amusing and estranging - Internet, social network, virtual world lives.

Upon leaving the exhibition, one gets the feeling of having crossed a forest of images (*Silva imaginum*), almost as if in an initiation rite, whose coordinates and keys to interpretation are open and entrusted to each spectator, to individuals who may encourage and regulate themselves to be free and liberate their gaze onto a new outlook.

The show *Silva imaginum* by Sophie Ko Chkheidze will be accompanied by the second Renata Fabbri arte contemporanea notebook, a limited-edition artist's book, with an essay by Federico Ferrari and an original work by the artist. This publication, and the entire exhibition, are the result of intense and profound collaboration between the artist and the philosopher that resounds in a game of echoes a la Baudelaire, amidst images, thoughts, and feelings.

The show runs through July 10, 2015

Technical Info

Venue -Renata Fabbri arte contemporanea - Via Stoppani, 15/C - 20129 Milan

renata@renatafabbri.it - ph. +39 02 91477463 - mob. + 39 348 7474286

Exhibition -Sophie Ko Chjheidze - Silva Imaginum

Curator -Federico Ferrari

Dates -May 11 -July 10, 2015

Inauguration -Monday, May 11, from 18:00

Organization and Press Office - Renata Fabbri, Renata Fabbri arte contemporanea, Milan

BIOGRAPHY SOPHIE KO CHKHEIDZE

Born in 1981 in Tbilisi (Georgia)

Lives and works in Milan

EDUCATION

2011 -MFA Accademia di Brera, Milan

2004 -BA Academy of Fine Arts, Tbilisi

SPECIAL PROJECTS

2005-2006 - Internship Program of the European Commission "Giovani per l'Interculturalità," Progetto Giovani, Padua

2003- Scholarship, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera, Milan

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2015 - *Silva imaginum*, curated by Federico Ferrari, Renata Fabbri arte contemporanea, Milan

2014 - *Sophie Ko Chkheidze*, with text by Federico Ferrari *Finis initium*, AplusB Contemporary Art, Brescia

2013 - *Nel cielo dove qualcosa luccica*, Museo Ettore Archinti, Lodi

2012 - *Geografia Temporale*, Nowhere Gallery, Milan

2011 - *Ad altezza d'occhio*, curated by Maurizio Guerri, NuovoCIB - Galleria Formentini, Milan

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (selection)

2015 - *Les Sublimes*, curated by Fondazione Arthur Cravan and Cose Cosmiche, Milan

2015 - *Vetrina*, curated by SOAP and festival STUDI, Milan

2013 - *Castello 40. A case study*, curated by Fortunato D'Amico, Venicedocks, Venice

2008 - *Schlaglichter*, curated by Paola Alborghetti, Atelieregemeinschaft Geh8, Dresden

2008 - *Maestros Y Discipulos*, promoted by Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera, Museo Municipal De Bellas Artes G. Perez di Cordoba, Argentina

2007 - *QUI OBIJT ANNO MMVII*, curated by Umberto Cavenago, S. Carpoforo, Milan

2003 - *Transmission*, promoted by Associazione Arte senza Frontiere, curated by Nino Danelia, Gallery Priestor for Contemporary Art, Bratislava