



Annalisa Furnari
Comuni luoghi di festa
From 29 April 2010 to 25 June 2010
Opening: Thursday, April 29th, at 6.30 pm

On Thursday 29th of April, at the gallery Ciocca Arte Contemporanea, opens the first solo show of the artist Annalisa Furnari. Born in Milan, the artist lived since her early childhood in Sicily, until the recent transfer to her native city. The exhibition arises from a natural process of retrospection in the investigation of a sense of belonging to the city, a reflection on common places and familiar stories.

The installation *How Soon Is Now?* welcomes visitors in the gallery; composed of nine props which secure the ceiling, the work creates the doubt that the structure is unsafe in the area of entry, which is also the only way out.

Comuni luoghi di festa, the work that gives the exhibition its title, is an interpretation of the theme of air in Milan; an entire wall of the gallery is treated with carbon black, pigment derived from the combustion of oil products, the cause of the layer of pollution which covers buildings and monuments and which, especially in the seventies, when the settlement of industrial areas persisted in suburban areas, made the air unbreathable.

In the installation *Il mare sotto*, the artist reworks the stories which were narrated to her when she was a little girl about the existence of a sea hidden beneath the city of Milan; a grate installed in the floor alludes to a relationship between ground and below ground, uncovering the sound of the sea and of crashing waves. In the artist's memory, this narrated sea was associated with the sea in storm depicted in two reproductions of paintings by artists Willem van de Velde and Pieter Mulier.

The work *Virgin Mary*, contamination of the sacred symbol of Milan, luminous sign metaphor of modernity, closes the exhibition, through a post-modern representation of the phenomenon of the mystical apparition; the work is a neon outlining the contours of the Virgin, in which a fault is simulated that does not allow proper lighting, thus preventing the appearance of the supernatural.

The exhibition is, ultimately, the paradigm of the past and the condition of contemporary society.

Annalisa Furnari Born in Milan (Vimercate 1969). Works with the installation (often site-specific projects), video and performance.

She has participated, in Italy and abroad, at exhibitions such as *XIV Art Quadrennial of Rome – Naples Preview* - Palazzo Reale, Naples, 2003; *Project Room*, Spazio Lima, Milan 2004 / *La Box Bourges*, Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Art de Bourges 2006; *Blue Hall Marktplatz Europe Atelierhaus Panzerhalle*, Berlin / *Kunsthalle Arnstad*, Thuringen 2004. Invited to the workshop ISIDEM with Artur Zmijewski, she took part in *Choices.it Montevergini* Civic Gallery, Syracuse; *Islands and identity in motion*, at the Heritage of Malta in 2006; *Videoakt, international video show*, Glogau rt Center, Berlin / *New Media Center Barcelona* 2008. She also participated with performances at *Gemine Muse International*, Benaki Museum, Athens 2004 and *Ellexpo contemporary Museum Athens* 2004 / 2005 Venice Biennale Gardens.

For informations: galleria@rossanaciocca.it
opening time: 2 pm – 7.30 pm, closed on Sunday and Monday
from June closed on Saturday and Sunday