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Carla Accardi
Scrivere con il colore (Writing with color)

Opening March 22, 2022
Until May 14, 2022

Scrivere con il colore (Writing with color) is an attitude that one can see in many aspects of Carla Accardi's work, from the horizontal position with which the artist creates her canvases - set on a table or on the ground - which reflects the very act of writing, to the amplifying manner in which the titles denote a metalinguistic function. Beginning in the 1980s, poems of Dino Campana, Daniele Pieroni, Francesco Serrao, Andrea Zanzotto, Valentino Zeichen and the verses of artist Bizhan Bassiri, are sources of inspiration for the titles of Carla Accardi's works, allowing her to create lively dialogue between art and poetry. Words and signs are in constant relation to one another.

The central part of the show is occupied by *Fregio* from 2004, a series of 15 ink drawings on paper which dialogue directly with a composition by Valentino Zeichen. The relationship between each individual drawing and the poet's corresponding verse becomes a continuum between text and image, between poetry and sign. By bringing together technical features, from the chiaroscuro to the negative, with mysterious traces of semantic meaning, Accardi and Zeichen generate a musical sound, a meter of signs. *Fregio* reveals the perfect and mysterious synchronicity of the poetic verse which can be converted into signs.

In *Stella (Dieci triangoli rossogialli)*, *Parentesi n.1* and *Parentesi n.3*, the artist creates an abstraction of painting technique, by using typographical symbols to generate a metalanguage which alters its logical structure. This anti-pictorial attitude can be found in the artist's work beginning from the 1950s. The direct and concise relationship with the content and the continuous attempt at subtraction and simplification are made manifest by the absence of color, to the point of subverting the painting support.

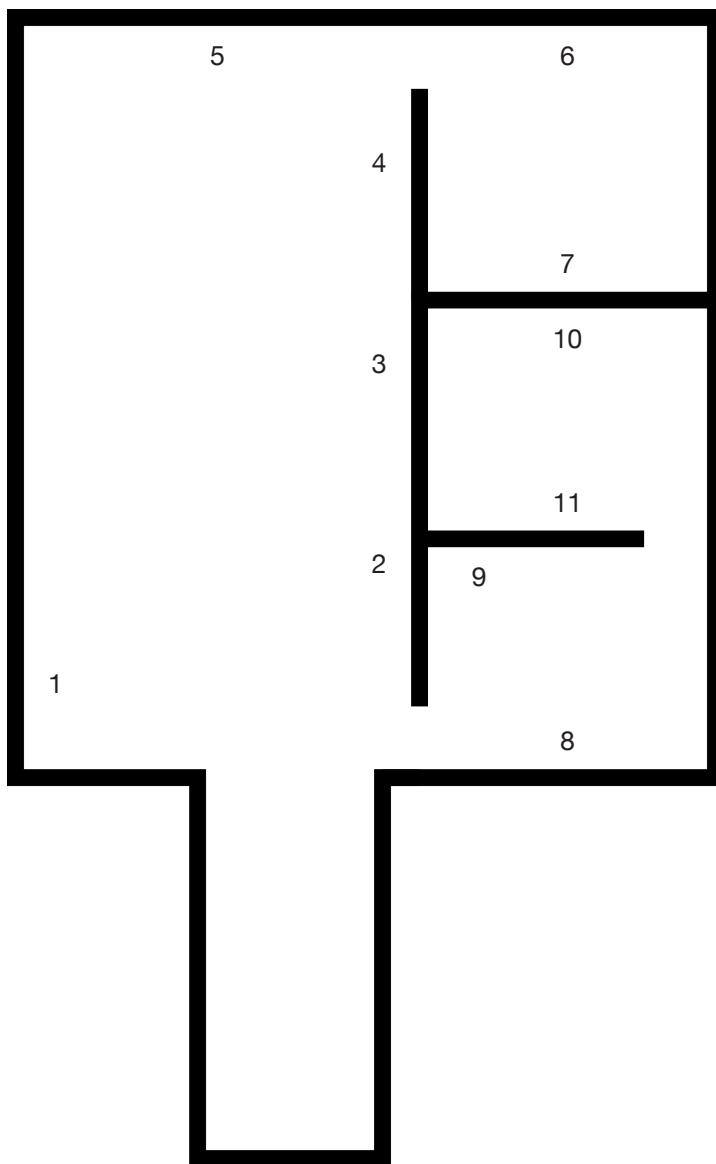
With the radical use of sicofoil, in the mid-1960s, Accardi abandoned the canvas and put the focus on the frame, using it as new a support for the painting. The idea of surface disappears and the sign is freed from its structure. *Stella (Dieci triangoli rossogialli)* graphically recalls the shape of an asterisk and its plastic surface becomes a protective element for the painting. We're in 1981, shortly before the series of the *Parentesi*, a period that marks the return to canvas as a surface that maintains its "transparencies" through the use of raw fabric.

In *Soli impigliati in frange e lappole* and *Luce crescente*, both from 1997, Accardi returns to the sign of the 1950s, enlarging it and inspecting it in all of its individual elements. The macro-signs float freely in the space, as though they were words. Accardi extracts her signs like the phrases from poems.

In the work *Blu su bianco* from 1998, the design becomes the negative part of the painting. Language is presented in its conceptual construction in *Si sdoppia e ricompare*, a title which comes from a poem by Valentino Zeichen, both from 2011.

Poetry and Carla Accardi's work share an incredible capacity for extremely direct communication, which however never frames the content in a closed form. Everything is open to the reconfiguration of a painting that becomes the property of whoever is reading or looking at it. Perhaps in this intense dialogue between signs and words we may even invert our senses, observing Accardi's titles and reading her works.

Lorenzo Benedetti



1. *Fregio*, 2004
ink on paper, 15 elements
56,5×76,7 cm each
2. *Parentesi n. 1*, 1981
vinyl paint on raw canvas
141×172 cm
3. *Stella (Dieci triangoli rossogialli)*, 1981
sicofoil on painted wooden stretcher,
10 elements
35×35 cm each
4. *Parentesi n°3*, 1982
vinyl paint on raw canvas
156×102 cm
5. *Soli impigliati in frange e lappole*, 1997
vinyl paint on canvas
160×180 cm
6. *Blu su bianco*, 1998
vinyl paint on canvas
123×163 cm
7. *Luce crescente*, 1997
vinyl paint on canvas, diptych
190×280 cm
8. *Veniente di Zaffiro*, 2003
vinyl paint on canvas
160×200 cm
9. *Minuti e decenni*, 2012
vinyl paint on canvas
100×120 cm
10. *Onda notturna*, 2011
vinyl paint on canvas
100×120 cm
11. *Reciproche influenze*, 2012
vinyl paint on canvas
100×120 cm