****

**Spazio Thetis**

**Arsenale Novissimo - Venice**

**TERRA, LUCE, ARCHITETTURA**

**Il viaggio di un granello di sabbia. Rossella Gilli**

**EARTH, LIGHT, ARCHITECTURE**

**The journey of a grain of sand. Rossella Gilli**

***curated by Fortunato D’Amico***

**7 June – 7 September 2014**

**conference open to the public on Saturday, 7 June at 11am**

**featuring**

*Michelangelo Pistoletto, Andreas Kipar, Marica Moro, Rossella Gilli,*

*Fortunato D’Amico, Renucio Boscolo, Paolo Mighetto, Bruno Gabbiani,*

*Hermes Redi - Managing Director of Thetis*

*Press release, 28.05.2014*

On the occasion of the Biennale of Venice - Architecture, the Spazio Thetis holds the exhibition **Terra, Luce, Architettura. Il viaggio di un granello di sabbia. Rossella Gilli/Earth, Light, Architecture. The journey of a grain of sand. Rossella Gilli**,curated by Fortunato D’Amico.

**The themes investigated by Rossella Gilli are similar to those of the 14th Biennale**, named “Fundamentals” and managed by Rem Koolhaas, in the representation of past and present architecture through visual art.

The exhibition highlights the process of transformation from nature to architecture, where light assumes a fundamental role in accompanying the grain of sand on a journey from the formation of rocks to the creation of buildings, a civilization in continuous evolution. The element of light present in the works of Rossella Gilli, especially in the representation of sea and sky, reflects on the earth and architectures and is the connection between them.

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The subjects introduced are the sand of the desert, the rocks and architectures, from the ancient ones of Marrakech, which for the artist represent the extreme dimension of the earth, to the skyscrapers.

Among the works on display what stands out are the canvases of medium and large sizes, that is: *Mare di sabbia/Sea of sand*, *Mare alchemico/Alchemic sea*, *Cattedrale di rocce/Cathedral of rocks*, *La Moschea dei librai/The Mosque of booksellers* – Kutubiya of Marrakech, *Pilastro/Pillar* of Central Station and *Grattacielo Pirelli/Pirelli skyscraper* by Giò Ponti in Milan which is surrounded by architectures of the latest generation. In addition one can admire some **never seen before pieces** especially made for the occasion.

The set-up is divided into three octagons dedicated to the Earth, Light and Architecture respectively, and it creates a dialogue with the work *Terzo Paradiso-Coltivare la città/Third Paradise-To cultivate the city* curated by Fortunato D’Amico with n.o.v.a. civitas (nuovi organismi di vita abitativa/new organisms of housing life) - Cittadellarte and created on the symbol of the 'Terzo Paradiso/Third Paradise' by **Michelangelo Pistoletto**.

*Terzo Paradiso-Coltivare la città/ Third Paradise-To cultivate the city*, placed in the big garden and made up of three circles reminiscent of the mathematical infinite sign, evokes the evolutionary path of human society**: in the first paradise men are one with nature; in the second one they live in an artificial paradise, which has developed from their intellect and is projected towards globalization; the “Terzo Paradiso/Third Paradise” combines the two previous ones in a natural, technological and ethical dimension: a new level of planetary civilization. Outside the symbol there is a city vegetable garden to underline the importance of human action and commitment to cultivating.**

**The symbol of the “Terzo Paradiso/Third Paradise” can be found in the historical canvases and recent vases in Murano glass by Rossella Gilli where the artist sees the positive regenerative energy acting on the individual and on the world**.

On display there is the artistic **video** filmed by Rossella Gilli in Morocco, **“Katalysis”, on the theme of the “Visioni di Terra/Visions of the Earth” where images in motion flow quickly on a nature in perfect harmony with the soundtrack accordingly designed.**

Accompanying the exhibition is a thorough **catalogue**, publishedby **Skira** with critical text by Fortunato D’Amico.

**Biographical info**

**Rossella Gilli, a Milanese painter, sculptress and engraver, graduated in Art History at the University of Milan with Pier Luigi De Vecchi and obtained a Ph.D. at the University of Florence with Mina Gregori. She based her research on design which brought her to open a Gallery in Milan, in Via del Gesù, dedicated to incisions and the old masters drawings; the activity is a great cultural success and is regularly visited by several luminaries such as Federico Zeri and Dennis Mahon.**

**For years she has been living and working among Paris, Milan and Marrakech, dedicating herself to painting, sculpture, incision and to the creation of artistic objects and jewels.**

**She exhibited in public and private venues among which there is the 54th Biennale of Venice, in the Pav. Italy, and for the new location of the Lombardy Region in Milan she has created a large canvas, 5m in height, named “Guglia del Duomo/Steeple of the Cathedral” for a column in the presidential area.**

**The works by Rossella Gilli are part of important private and public collections.**

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**Details**

**Title TERRA, LUCE, ARCHITETTURA. Il viaggio di un granello di sabbia. Rossella Gilli/**

**EARTH, LIGHT, ARCHITECTURE. The journey of a grain of sand. Rossella Gilli**

**Curated by** Fortunato D’Amico

**Venue Spazio Thetis - Arsenale Novissimo – Venice**

**Stop Bacini – Lines 4.1- 4.2 - 5.1 - 5.2**

**Dates 7 June – 7 September 2014**

**Grand opening** **Friday, 6 June at 5pm**

**Conference open to the public on Saturday, 7 June at 11am**

**featuring:**

*Michelangelo Pistoletto, Andreas Kipar, Marica Moro, Rossella Gilli, Fortunato D’Amico, Renucio Boscolo, Paolo Mighetto, Bruno Gabbiani, Hermes Redi - Managing Director of Thetis*

**Catalogue Skira**

**Opening hours** Mon-Fri 10am-6.30pm. Saturday and Sunday upon booking

Open Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 of June – Closed from 9 to 17 August

**Entrance fee** free admission

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