**Triennale of Milan**

**Spazio MaterialConneXion**

**Sonja Quarone. Cuore d’Oriente/Sonja Quarone. Heart of the Orient**

*curated by Fortunato D’Amico*

**20 June –23 July 2014**

grand opening on Thursday, 19 June at 6.30pm

*press release, 29 May 2014*

India shown in **never seen before snapshots** and **installations**: a reflection of Sonja Quarone.

The Spazio MaterialConneXion - **Triennale of Milan** presents the photographic exhibition “**Sonja Quarone. Cuore d’Oriente/Sonja Quarone. Heart of the Orient**”, on display from 20 June to 23 July 2014.

The exhibition curated by Fortunato D’Amico is structured into three sections: Architetture & Landscape/Architectures & Landscape, Design (e) Motion/Design (and) Motion, People; through 50 snapshots it offers an in-depth and personal picture of India seen through the eyes of the artist.

The subjects on display go from **architecture** to **landscape**, from **people** to **objects**, to **typical situations** and bring out the reflection of Sonja Quarone on Eastern Society in favour of a social and ecological life of the planet in evolution.

The theme was born from the reckoning that the system of the “first world”, born from the industrial revolution and welfare built on consumerism, is in crisis and is looking for solutions for new integrations of cultures, activities and social economies, which were lost during the industrial secularization.

Focusing on certain elements and through careful digital processing the artist highlights details of the framing; one can notice it especially in the architectures and the faces of women, men and children, where the **out of focus images** keep clear details of the buildings and significant traits as gazes, expressions of the mouth and gestures of the hands. The absence of a background, substituted by subtle monochrome shades of colour, creates a staging effect which isolates the subject from the surrounding reality and highlights its meaning.

In the pieces from the sections 'Architetture & Landscape/Architectures & Landscape' and 'Design (e) Motion/Design (and) Motion' what stands out are the photographs where the lens captures elements which are very different, such as skyscrapers next to dilapidated old houses joined together by a complex interplay of geometries created by intertwined clothes lines; squares where ancient temples, rich in history, stand next to anonymous buildings; streets with modern buildings where the car traffic flows next to a cart hauled by oxen with horns painted red and outmoded hotels in front of which an old taxi and a camel stand.

Glimpses of architectures and social life alternate creating a varied overview, comprehensive of the several aspects of a world which to us is at the same time far away and close.

The snapshots, printed on different supports among which there are fabric, resin and Krion, converse with the old Indian pieces of furniture used for the photographic installations. Among these there are *Vie di fuga/Escapes*, faces printed on fabric and placed on an old wooden elephant seat finely carved on the sides; *Anime/Souls*, portraits of people of all ages displayed in the cavities of a polychrome bookcase, on the back of which is placed the series *Nutrimento/Nourishment*, portraying isolated kiosks on deserted beaches and people eating. Interesting is the framing of the bicycle transporting the typical tin containers for food next to the installation of “latte/milk” made in **resin** by the artist and containing spices and dried fruit.

The picture of an old religious man in the act of sleeping has been placed on the bed, made from a single teak tree trunk and of essential features, to represent the value of meditation.

In addition one can admire the blow-up image on wall paper *Tutto è nel mezzo/All is in the middle*, around which they have placed many photographs of small sizes, under the name of *Foto ricordo/Souvenir photos*, which belong to the 'People' section and cross-reference to the devotional images found in temples.

In the snapshots by Sonja Quarone one can feel her thoughts regarding the modern Indian society which, even though is characterized by a high level of syncretism and cultural pluralism, has been able to preserve its own ancient traditions.

A volume with a critical text by Fortunato D’Amico and the images of all the works on display completes the exhibition.

**Biographical info**

Sonja Quarone was born in Vigevano in 1972. After graduating from the arts high school of Novara she followed up her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts of Brera in Milan. Among the teachers who had an important role in her cultural formation it is worth mentioning the conceptual artist Vincenzo Ferrari and the visual poet Ugo Carrega.

The body is what inspires her works and certifies the processes of the evolutionary change in her artistic growth. She experiments with the restless areas of her personality, investigating the memories of her childhood and the turmoil of growing-up. Dolls, lingerie, plush toys, masks, newspaper scraps and photographs, which are objects retrieved from the archives of overcome fears, suggest the possibility of creative reviews of personal memories, stir unconscious fantasies and symbiosis, become traces to uncover forms of poetical fusion that are absolutely original. A natural inclination to travel, curiosity and the desire to know, the emotion of discovery drive her to use documentary photography as means to explore regions far away from Western culture, but close to her feeling for diversities in life. India is not only a physical place of the world, but also an inner space where Sonja Quarone's work records the achieved awareness of the presence of a social and anthropological dimension implicit in her works.

**Details**

**Title** Sonja Quarone. Cuore d’Oriente/Sonja Quarone. Heart of the Orient

**Curated by** Fortunato D’Amico

**Venue** Triennale of Milan - Spazio MaterialConneXion

**Dates** 20 June - 23 July 2014

**Grand opening** Thursday, 19 June at 6.30pm

**Opening hours** Tue-Sun 10.30am-1.30pm /2.30pm-8pm

**Entrance fee** free admission
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**Text and image downloads from** [**www.irmabianchi.it**](http://www.irmabianchi.it/mostra/sonja-quarone-cuore-doriente)