

Home Less Home

5 September – 24 October 2021

Casa della Memoria

The video-installation site-specific by Paola Di Bello features, through the imagery of new housing spaces of the homeless people in Milan in the last few years, an artistic journey that hypostatize the ordinary, where “the art is the starting point of the learning process”.

The exhibition *Home Less Home*, that opens on Saturday 4th September h 5.30 pm, is curated by Maria Fratelli, and promoted by Casa della Memoria | Milan Municipality in collaboration with Galleria Bianconi (Milan).

In the show *Home Less Home*, Paola Di Bello describes the homeless people’s stories looking at their shelters, the objects that compose them, the exceptional things that make them unique. These are poor possibilities and great ambitious: mattresses, books, saints and rosaries, domestic memories, a cardboard box that becomes a one cubic meter studio-apartment, a blanket laying over a breath of hot air exhaling from a street grate in the city center ready to fly, detaching from reality.

The Salone del Mobile becomes an occasion for a necessary and compelling excuse of rethinking, the photographer’s eye moves her focus from being to stay, and lastly to having. She sees and captures the contemporary poverty, lives moving through urban trenches laying on the battle lines that move every day according to the opening’s hours of the shops. The city center turns into the homeless’ favorite place because in the mass indifference finds relief the fear of being the target of anybody’s free wickedness.

Paola Di Bello’s project finds its influential photographic precursor in the images of “Occhio Quadrato” by Alberto Lattuada, a neorealist description of the poverty during Fascism. Published in 1941, conceived by the screenwriter and director, architect, and intellectual very close to the Corrente movement, this photographic album represents a challenge. It features 26 shoots of everyday life, scenes of urban and social marginality, from homeless people and vintage furniture’s markets. The same relationship between the people’s loneliness and the recycle objects links Lattuada and Di Bello in the search for the invisible humanity.

The exhibition installation, only projectors reproducing the images on the walls, is deliberately ephemeral and almost transparent as is these people’s presence in the solidity of the metropolis. This embraces a dialogue between images and the space, almost as if the homeless people were welcomed at Casa della Memoria, and again through other images, projected simultaneously on a TV screen, that show the Milanese homeless people from 1946 in the Dino Risi’s documentary, titled in fact, “Barboni”.

The difference with Dino Risi’s movie is very obvious, his homeless people walked without break across a city destroyed, the homeless people of today are permanent, the first ones were hungry and light, the ones of today shield themselves with rags and cardboard and feed themselves on indifference. Paola Di Bello’s photographs convey an urban scenario that has radically changed since the war that has disappointed the city’s expectations, capable to guaranteeing a home to everybody, diverse in size and quality, however real and safe, not transportable in plastic bags from one porch to the other.

It’s not art’s task to explain through a show the mistake that left these drifts open after decades, its duty is to open your eyes and free your gaze, to convince that is still indispensable to build a city of equal people that live together and solve the diversities through the solidarity.

The Green Pass must be presented at the entrance of the exhibition and visitors must wear face masks inside the venue. Visitors' temperature will be measured before entering the exhibition space.

To attend the opening booking is required contacting c.casadellamemoria@comune.milano.it .

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Monday closed

From Tuesday to Sunday 9:30 am – 5:30 pm

FREE ENTRANCE

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