

PRESS RELEASE

Exhibition title: **Monica Gorini. The Codes of the Garden**

Duration: **from 26.08.2023 to 2.09.2023**

Venue: **Casa Badanelli Donati**

Via Badanelli, 60 corner Via Bagnalera 47 - Armeno (NO)

Opening: **Saturday, August 26 at 6:00 p.m.**

Designing a garden means creating images, giving life to a pictorial effect in ever different and changing views, one closely bound up with the brightness of the light and the life cycles of plants. The elements are inserted so that they engage in a continuous dialogue with the colours, and the shades of the flowers highlight or harmonise with the multiple shades of greens, creating magical poetic effects in a totalising and immersive experience. The garden, like music, has a mysterious influence on the soul.

Monica Gorini, through her way of feeling that is completely synaesthetic (a perception made with the integrated use of the 5 senses), after conducting studies in depth, has created a wholly new vision of the garden. The starting point of her work is the *Jardin d'eau*, the water garden at Giverny, in Normandy, today the Claude Monet Foundation, the place patiently built and repeatedly painted by the French artist in the last period of his research.

Monica Gorini repeatedly immersed herself in the *Giardin d'eau* at Giverny over a long period, observing and studying every chromatic detail, in the guise of the "scientist of colour", to understand the place in its essence, its primary structures, and reduce it to a veritable set of chromatic pixels. At Giverny, in the places dear to Monet, Monica made the garden visible not with a naturalistic reproduction, but through chromatic codes that, organized in sequences, represent a conceptual scanning of transient and changing phenomena in nature, which in art become a sort of visual and chromatic barcode. Every nuance of the sky, the flowers and the leaves is transferred onto wooden rectangles, regular and geometric palettes, resembling the keys of a piano and encoded in a rational and rhythmic binary language.

On these tesserae, painted directly from nature (to abstract it), Gorini relates the essence of the sky, recounts the interplay of shadows as clouds pass by, the reflections of liquids and the greens of trees, as well as the changeable colours of the air. She reveals the characters of greens with shifting hues, and recreates an impressive number of shades to enhance the "Plant Harmonies". In short, she creates her "Pantonatures du Jardin".

"The garden can teach us to understand diversity in unity and harmony," says the artist. "This is why the natural universe can inspire humanity to a profound evolution." She adds: *"The climate changes of recent years have created a scenario in which the landscape will be subjected to troubling changes that will also affect humans, since we are profoundly enmeshed with the environment. Suggesting new attitudes that take us towards the ecological transition and Educating for protection, through knowledge, I believe is the task of artists and those who work with culture. Even with events in which the focus is the garden, as in this exhibition designed specifically for Casa Badanelli Donati, starting from its most fascinating place: an Eden with centuries-old trees."* And, Monica concludes, *"I have worked with tesserae that resemble the basic material from which the Universe is built. This is why I think of my works as fragments of a Whole; geometric and colorful constructions and deconstructions, intended to celebrate the relationships, similarities and correspondences of Nature; an 'iconic work in progress' of the perennial change that seeks to encounter Time but also our consciousness as part of the Universe."*

The spaces of the historic eighteenth-century Casa Badanelli Donati di Armeno will exhibit sculptures, pictorial and photographic works, design objects and a video, the trace of a private performance held in the artist's garden on Lake Orta, entwining poetry, contemporary music and dance are entwined, testifying to the care for a multiplicity of artistic languages towards which Monica Gorini always tends.

In addition, during the inauguration, the book entitled *Synthèse visuelle* will be presented, a narrative in diary form written by Monica Gorini and presenting the results, reflections and emotions of the research conducted in France.

The preface to the book is by Lorella Giudici, the art historian and professor of Contemporary Art History at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts (Milan), **who will speak at the inauguration of the exhibition together with Maria Grazia Cereda**.

Casa Badanelli Donati is a residence of historical and cultural significance dating from the seventeenth century, then extended in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Among the different rooms that preserve furnishings and historical documents, there is a large saloon used to host cultural events and a museum which keeps the records of prestigious figures of the Badanelli Donati family. The three wings of the house enclose a garden of naturalistic interest with numerous plants, including a hornbeam planted in 1860 and a Sophora japonica 'Pendula' planted in 1900.

Monica Gorini lives and works in Milan and by Lake Orta. Having graduated from the Brera Academy of Fine Arts, she has always supported her art work with training in the educational pedagogical field, collaborating with Universities and Academies, with Institutions linked to the world of the blind such as the U.I.C. (Italian Union of the Blind) and the Institute of the Blind in Milan.

Her experiences abroad in this field include participation in the poster session of the conference:

"Multimodal Approach to Learning, Creativity and Communication" organized by Art Education for the blind in New York, and by Teachers College Columbia University, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. It was on this occasion that she exhibited two of her multisensory sculptures.

Monica Gorini's art work, taking advantage of the experience gained for many years with blind people, is based on a fusion between different artistic languages. Her works are the result of experiments often characterized by constant reference to multi-sensory experience, accompanied by poetic texts that she composes. A self-taught photographer, she combines personal references and materials from her own poetic and dream world with scientific and philosophical theories, bringing them together in a single form of narrative.

Linked by her sensibility to the world of nature and rights, she is searching for an aesthetic that also stimulates timely and intimate reflections, directed at developing a social conscience and a new spiritual ecology of the world.

She has exhibited both in Italy and abroad in solo and group exhibitions: Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Palazzo Italia, Berlin; Se Center for Photography, Greenville, South Carolina, USA; Galleria Corrado Bortone, Paris; Space Nau Bostik, Barcelona, Fortezza del Priamar, Savona; Palazzo Duchi di Santo Stefano, Taormina, Villa Nobel, Sanremo; Officine Creative Ansaldo, Milan. Istituto dei ciechi and U.I.C. (Italian Union of the Blind), Milan; Milano Triennale Design Museum. For her installations she has been selected several times for the Arte Laguna Prize in Venice.

Casa Badanelli Donati

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