

LOTTERIA IMMANUEL

Christian Manuel Zanon

opening 16 January 7pm
19 January - 4 March 2016

Saturday 16 January sees the opening of "Lotteria Immanuel" by Christian Manuel Zanon (Padova, 1985) at Galleria FuoriCampo in Siena. Following his recent solo show at the Marsèlleria Permanent Exhibition space in Milan, once again books are the place which he draws on for a personal quest for meaning as to the possibilities of language - as a field of study and a method of investigation - included between the totality of events (facts as they stand) and loss of the faculty of speech, in the sense of a suspension of judgment, and an admission of an inability to describe the world (one must be silent over the things that one cannot speak about).

Setting out from a work by Immanuel Kant, "Universal Natural History and Theory of Heaven", Zanon embarks upon a personal reading, selecting fragments of text from the book which fill an ephemeral space, an urn which contains them, and which rotates them like a microcosm.

The extraction of a term or an entire proposition from the text, prior to being drawn from the urn, follows an unplanned process, the ultimate aim of which is not discovery, but which finds its heuristic value in the pure definition of method, as per a perpetual pretext, to cite the title of another work by the artist, in which the deconstructionist intent proves to be an invitation (without any way out) to return to the text.

In this sense, a lottery represents an appropriate mechanism to activate the factor of chance, which is chosen to determine the result, to which no positive or negative value is associated - nobody wins, and nobody loses. Regardless of the symbolic meanings attached to a lottery, and cabalistic prophecy, the turning motion of the urn, containing scraps of knowledge, the written text becomes a deceptive (specious) field of study that eludes itself.

What is of interest is not the academic meaning of the text, or the message that it conveys, between the lines of the treatise - one of Kant's youthful, and less well-known works that gives special importance to the scientific method, and the courage to get knowledge, urging confidence in progress. Instead, what is of interest is the words that they contain; the fragments of thought in that book become a subject for investigation and creation for Christian Manuel Zanon, to re-trace the book outside of its literary form, and the container.

The capsule from which he extracts the oracles works rather like a crucible, where words are mixed together to create new worlds, new geographies of meaning between the words, drawing a map of the sky, and of the artist's thoughts and visions. Lotteria Immanuel is the result, impressed upon the walls of the

gallery, of a committed, playful moment, an engaged entertainment lasting the length of a week, in which the artist translated these topics from the academic realm to the educational and topographic realm, in which the elements combine and overlap, in line with “a way of practice which, while making, invents its own way of making”.

The specific intervention designed for FuoriCampo maps out a cosmography in typographical characters in the gallery space, in keeping with the artist's recent output, involving the appropriation, manipulation and transfer of words as the material for his creations, and giving new form to the custom of written texts to be digressive.

Only words allow that itinerary halfway between surreal hypothesis and the need of the logos to describe, between the possible and what lies beyond, in which knowledge remains a dare (Sapere aude!), and observation of the skies the best way to predict events.

Lotteria Immanuel will be on view at Galleria FuoriCampo in Siena until 4 March.