

NATURE IN PLAY

Botto, Breuning, Bundurakis, Christto & Andrew, della Valle, Dorf, Kannisto, Marzorati, Pertoldeo, Signorini, Tilo & Toni

7 March – 29 July 2020

Nature in Play is a collective exhibition opening at **Metronom** which exhibits works by artists who reflect on possible ways of representing nature and landscape using photography.

Charming and playful, the works highlight a renewed impulse to use photography to observe nature, with combinations of references to pop culture, trends and 'pure' atmospheres. Free of the excessively picturesque, the photographic gaze returns to deal with natural beauty through original and thoughtful approaches.

Our daily experience is built from the continuous exchange with the appearances that surround us – familiar or unexpected – and these exchanges confirm our existence: in being observers, we are able to contemplate our being in the world. Our way of looking is individually unique, it changes according to who is observing, where and what is being observed: children intuitively experience different perceptions of reality as they ascend into and augment contexts totally different from the one they live in. This is called *play*.

Since the beginning of industrialisation, we have seen sentimental visions of nature persist, both moving and alluring, it has often been considered that our affective response to nature is functional. Furthermore, if what a community finds beautiful in nature depends on precise social roots, there appears to be constants that all cultures have found awe inspiring.

According to philosopher György Lukács, the natural landscape symbolically represents what has not been created by men and can be understood as that aspect of human interiority that has remained natural, or that at least, intends or aspires to return to the natural world. If this most natural element is where our "eye of beauty" resides, then our gaze is purified of any influence of mediation, cultural construct or social obligation.

These artists engage and experiment with the landscape in personal and distinctive ways which investigates the relationship between consciousness, nature and what may - or may not – be naturally beautiful.

Andrea Pertoldeo shows portions of natural landscapes as if we were walking together, revealing a way of enjoying nature that becomes visually pleasurable and consequently physically pleasurable. The two works by **Daniele Marzorati** presents two different ways of narrating the landscape that leave the viewer free to enter the narrative and take on the role of its protagonist.

Elena Aya Bundurakis accompanies the viewer hand in hand to touch the most intimate part of living beings. **Martina della Valle** creates green architectures to reflect on the peripheral areas of urban vegetation: the artist proposes a new way of looking at city nature in search of what regularly goes unnoticed.

Mark Dorf explores the interactions between society, the digital domain and nature: focusing on the landscape, intended as a habitable and familiar place, the artist analyses its numerical translation provided by digital observers who propose new visions yet to be discovered. As in a laboratory, **Sanna Kannisto** utilises a scientific approach to the visualisation of nature and its inhabitants whilst at the same time constructing a theatrical stage whose performers are the birds and plants of the Finnish landscape.

Marco Signorini weaves a story of the landscape through elements stemming from digital language. In **Christto & Andrew's** work, nature is imagined in a projection of the future in which flora is irreparably marked by traces of human society.

Nature is also the protagonist of **Tilo & Toni's** work, showing all its power and vitality: with typical canons of German romanticism, the artist duo reinterpret the relationship between man and nature with a contemporary perspective. **Andrea Botto** photographs fragments of nature exploded in a rarefied and near impalpable environment. **Olaf Breuning's** practice shows us how metaphorical the relationship between man and nature is: what they have in common is also what distinguishes them and vice versa.

Exhibition details

Dates: 7 March – 29 July 2020
Artists: Andrea Botto, Olaf Breuning, Elena Aya Bundurakis, Christto & Andrew, Martina della Valle, Mark Dorf, Sanna Kannisto, Daniele Marzorati, Andrea Pertoldeo, Marco Signorini, Tilo & Toni
Title: *Nature in Play*
Location: Metronom, Via Carteria 10 / 41121 Modena
Hours: by appointment
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