

29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery
MILANO

presents

22 FEBRUARY - 14 APRIL 2018

the exhibition

LELLI E MASOTTI: "A POEM"

curated by Giovanni Pelloso



**On view a selection of works by the photographers of theatre and the arts
Silvia Lelli and Roberto Masotti**

From February 22nd to April 14th 2018, 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery in Milan (via San Vittore 13) presents an exhibition by the renowned duo Lelli and Masotti – signature created during their collaboration with Teatro alla Scala since 1979, entitled "A POEM".

The show, curated by Giovanni Pelloso, gathers more than 40 photographs guiding the visitor into an unprecedented "arrangement" and weaving complex webs of a new poetic work. Not only "A POEM" but, more essentially, the alphabet of a structure.

Originally conceived as a sort of “best of”, the exhibition charts the essential steps of the duo’s career through an accurate selection of works rendered differently from what has ever been done before.

The most relevant aspect of all is space, the depth binding the continuous interpretation of the theatrical scenery and its inner hidden mechanisms together, thus becoming the hallmark of the photographers’ visual language.

Rather than seizing it, Silvia and Roberto decided to live inside the moment intensively enough to unravel its abstract, semi metaphysical reverse side: the framework of an event, the perfect point of view, the dream-like filter: all adds some symbolic power to these images and make them eternally alive.

Time plays an important role for Roberto Masotti: “These photographs result from a particular alchemical juncture and require time to be fully unraveled or expressed. They are primarily moved either by an intuition or an instinct and then a sort of chemical precipitation happens - not unlike a theoretical thought – pointing out to the essence.

The memory theme also represents a cornerstone, omnipresent as it is throughout the whole exhibition. Sometimes a real detachment occurs as the images are pared down to their barest essentials, estranged from their original reality or meaning and immediately transformed into something new that desperately wants to exist and claim its own independence.

“A POEM” stands out for its strong will to recreate new forms of life in a vital and dynamic way, as well as new perspectives.

“Some images boast a much more essential and metaphysical nature” – tells Silvia Lelli – “others are abstract, others symbolize. Since they take up different meanings along the way, just few of them really represent what they show from the outside: they can be both a watershed moment and a guideline.”

In addition to the **opening of Wednesday 21st February 2018**, “A POEM” will proceed through two more events: a meeting with the artists (3rd March) that will be revealing the secrets lying beneath some of their shots and their career and a second meeting involving experts and critics before the end of the exhibition.

Soon after “A POEM” at 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery, Silvia Lelli and Roberto Masotti will be exhibiting in Milan at Palazzo Reale.

Lelli and Masotti - Biography

Internationally recognized photographers of theatre and the arts, Silvia Lelli and Roberto Masotti joined forces to form Lelli e Masotti when they began collaborating with Teatro alla Scala in 1979. Both born in Ravenna, they completed their studies in Florence and moved to Milan in 1974. Since then, in their work they have explored the performing arts and in particular music, producing photographs presented in exhibitions, installations and publications. Their subjects include such renowned artists as Keith Jarrett, Miles Davis, Demetrio Stratos, Frank Zappa, Jan Garbarek, Franco Battiato, Arvo Pärt, John Cage, Pina Bausch, Tadeusz Kantor, Pier’Alli, Merce Cunningham, Claudio Abbado, Leonard Bernstein, Riccardo Muti, Giuseppe Sinopoli, Sylvano Bussotti, Maurizio Pollini, Kim Kashkashian, Placido Domingo, Carla Fracci, Karlheinz Stockhausen and Luciana Savignano, to name just a few.

Lelli e Masotti have developed an aptitude for the stage and have used video as a means of multidisciplinary expression on several occasions with works devoted to nature, the landscape and theaters of Italy, orchestra conductors, John Cage and the piano. Their vast archive is an inexhaustible source of images for the publishing and recording industries. Different works by them are featured in public and private collections. Collaborations with: Orchestra Filarmonica della Scala since its formation in 1982, Festival del Quartetto and Premio Borciani in Reggio Emilia, Festival MITO/Milan, Rome’s Teatro dell’Opera, Ravenna Festival, Orchestra Giovanile Luigi Cherubini and the Salzburg Festival.

In recent years they have participated in several international exhibitions including: *The Artist’s Eye* at the Lewis Glucksman Gallery in Cork, Ireland/ *Think of your ears as eyes* at Ara Art Center in Seoul, Korea/ *ECM, a Cultural*

Archaeology at the Haus der Kunst in Munich, Germany/ *Illuminazioni* Venice's Biennale Internazionale d'Arte/ *The Freedom Principle: Experiments in Art and Music, 1965 to Now* at the MCA Chicago/ *Claudio Abbado, fare musica insieme*, Teatro dell'Opera, Florence/ *Luce, scienza-cinema-arte in Parma*/ *Gianni Sassi, uno di noi*, Fondazione Mudima, Milano. Also noteworthy are the shows *La Vertigine del Teatro* and *Musiche* promoted respectively by the Italian Cultural Centers in Paris and Madrid, and their *Lectio magistralis* held at Milan's Triennale.

Milano, January 2018

LELLI E MASOTTI. A POEM

curated by **Giovanni Pelloso**

Milano, 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery - Via San Vittore 13

22 February - 14 April 2018

Opening Wednesday 21st February, 6.30 PM

Timetables: from Tuesday to Saturday, 11.00-19.00.

Other days on appointment

Free entrance

Information: tel. 02 94387188; 392 1002348

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Press office

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