

Book presentation

Lightfossil. Sentimento del tempo in fotografia e letteratura.

written by Beatrice Seligardi

With

Beatrice Seligardi [author]

Francesco Zucconi [assistant professor of Cinema, photography and television, Università IUAV, Venice]

Saturday 26 June 2021 | 7.15 – 9.30 p.m.

Provisionally, we can call it lighfossil: a sense of time that includes the act of immortalizing the traces of what has been there, while creating a different experience of time, a different way of representing the human figure, petrified together with the signs of light which accompany her; a figure that emerges, thus gaining sense in this very process of surfacing, but without mingling with the background; a mysterious juxtaposition of several elements that points to the very essence of the enigma; an emblem, that is the result of a mysterious, rather than abstruse, process of combination, like recalling a memory which, however, does not belong to our private history. [Beatrice Seligardi]

Two pictures – by Francesca Woodman and Marianne Breslauer, respectively – show an amazing list of similarities: two women, leaning on a wall bearing the signs of time, seem to emerge, petrified, like in ancient bas-reliefs. This deathlike impression is increased by an enigmatic syntax created by the human figures together with the traces of the past to be found on stone surfaces: these shapes, full of mystery, do suggest but do not tell, indexes of what-has-been which do not turn out to be reassuring clues. Like guiding images, stemming from Gianni Celati's definition of "figure of movement", the two photographs introduce us into a sentimental journey throughout the "poetics of indexicality" in the works of Francesca Woodman, Agnès Varda, Max Klinger, André Breton, Deborah Levy, Sophie Calle, Louise Bourgeois and Mary Ruefle.

The event, during which the autor will talk with Francesco Zucconi, is hosted by Spazio Berlendis, a new exhibition centre in Venice, where three works by Francesca Woodman are currently exhibited: two photographs from the series *Untitled, New York* (1979-1980) and one magnificent *Caryatid* (1980), on which Seligardi spend lot of the pages of her volume. Francesca Woodman is represented by Victoria Miro.

If Antonio Tabucchi in his Racconti con figure said "Painting has often moved my pen", in the same way the writing of Beatrice Seligardi in Lightfossil seems to have been moved, almost induced, by photography. [...] Seligardi starts from the description and comment of these photographs to introduce his thesis and to begin a sentimental journey in search of the feeling of time. [Lavinia Torti, Il Tascabile, September 2020]

Beatrice Seligardi, who holds a PhD in Euro-American Literature and in Dr. Phil. at Università di Bergamo and Justus Liebig Universität Gießen, is currently a Lecturer of Contemporary Literature and Performance at Università degli studi di Parma. She wrote two monographs, both published in 2018: *Ellissi dello sguardo. Pathosformeln dell'inespressività femminile dalla cultura visuale alla letteratura* (Milan, Morellini) and *Finzioni accademiche. Modi e forme del romanzo universitario* (Florence, Franco Cesati Editore).

Francesco Zucconi is Assistant Professor of Cinema, Photography and Television at Università IUAV di Venezia. Associate Member at the Centre d'Histoire et Théorie des arts of EHESS in Paris and Research Fellow at various institutions, Zucconi is also an author and Lecturer for Cinema and Visual Culture at several universities in Italy and abroad.

Spazio Berlendis guarantees that all regulations against the spread of Covid 19 will be respected to protect all participants in the event.

Opening hours: Thursday – Saturday | 2.00 – 7.00 pm | Other days possible opening by appointment

Spazio Berlendis

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