



LANDSCAPING OPHELIA

Veronica Tanzi

CACT Bellinzona_Centro d'Arte Contemporanea Ticino_Switzerland

26 September 01 November 2009

Vernissage_Saturday 26 September 2009 at 5.30 p.m.

Fri-Sat-Sun_2.00-6.00 p.m. (or by appointment)

LANDSCAPING OPHELIA is the title of the thematic exhibition that **VERONICA TANZI** (1975) is holding at the Bellinzona location of the Centre of Contemporary Art in Canton Ticino. The topics that this Swiss artist has been developing for some time are linked unequivocally with the female figure and its many intimate facets: identity and gender, but also sentiment and suffering. She achieves this by revisiting an important icon of literature and theatre, Ophelia, the sixteenth-century female character who, as legend has it, committed suicide for unrequited love by drowning herself. Ophelia is an important hinge character, who was transformed and transcended by the English playwright William Shakespeare in his intense tragedy *Hamlet*. The elements in that tale, which was an immediate popular success, with its highly symbolic value, have all been picked up here by the artist for an installation that stretches to occupy the five rooms at the CACT with works custom-produced for the exhibition, which the curator has applied in the exhibition design to suggest the topic's dramatic and theatrical poetry.

It is important to call attention to the fact that the entire exhibition is a pattern of continuous cross-references, of topics stated or sometimes merely whispered, into which the artist has inserted intimate, personal allusions, comparing them with contemporary reality; this indicates the extent to which history, in its universal pertinence, is capable of crossing the space of time, representing its necessary, incessant dynamism.

In the first room, three photographic images of Ophelia immersed/suspended naked in water, her body coldly lifeless, inserted between three monitors, standing for the journey within the cold immobility of the end, constitute the introduction to the exhibition. These few, bare elements are decisive for the narrative development that Veronica Tanzi wants to attribute to the entire exhibition, as water, death and lightness of weight give the whole story a density of fairy-tale and regressive suspense, of endless and playful love, of suffering and of the non-death of sentiment as a dimension of uniquely ecstatic experience beyond the limits set by existence.

Mario Casanova_2009 [translation Pete Kercher]

Centro d'Arte Contemporanea del Ticino
Via Tamaro, 3 – 6500 Bellinzona
Switzerland
phone ++41 (0)91 825 40 85
info@cacticino.net
www.cacticino.net

Centro d'Arte Contemporanea del Ticino
Via Dante Alighieri, 10 – 6830 Chiasso
Switzerland
phone ++41 (0)91 683 83 45
info@cacticino.net
www.cacticino.net