

PRESENTATION FOR CLAUDIA SON HYUNSOOK'S EXHIBITION, SALON PRIVEE ARTI VISIVE GALLERY, JANUARY 2000

BETWEEN EAST AND WEST, BETWEEN SKY AND EARTH

Projecting a poem on the entrance wall of the gallery, Claudia Son Hyunsook uses writing to introduce us into her pictorial universe.

By remembering a distant sunset, the Korean artist entrusts to these verses the genesis of her creative process at the core of the exhibit. A series of black and white landscapes of different sizes, using acrylic colours, on previously prepared canvases with Japanese paper appliances are used.

After having worked on engravings for a long time, Claudia Son Hyunsook faces now the challenge of painting, keeping the essential characteristics of non-colour and sign techniques on her printing technique.

Having chosen to use only black and white to paint the Italian mountain landscape, the artist gives us, with few strokes and no colour, the essence of a poetic magical experience.

Slowly enveloped by the sunset, the mountain landscape offers us its colours as the dark night creeps in, in which the absolute power of black is highlighted, protecting in a precious shrine the colours of day, handing them back to us at the crack of dawn.

In the pictorial and intimate transcription, that place, filtered through the memories of an oriental landscape becomes almost unreal and seems to be standing still between heaven and earth, between East and West.

Wandering through the exhibition you are caught in a warm atmosphere in which the artist seems to invite us to a cathartic journey of initiation.

First the sky and the clouds, then the mountain peaks, and finally the presence of animals. Some cows drawn on a piece of silk on the edge of the frame. Seen from behind, they seem to wait for that light breeze which will delicately push them into the infinite depths of the landscape.

Standing in front of the last paintings, we have the impression that the story continues, but in this room reminiscent of the "camere picte" the artist has succeeded in replicating that profound sense of peace and harmony that we feel when seeing a sunset.

Elisabetta Giovagnoni