

KUNST MERAN
Im Haus der Sparkasse
MERANO ARTE
edificio Cassa di Risparmio

HELEN MIRRA

Walking, weaving

GIANNI PETTENA

Natural Architecture

22nd July – 24th September, 2017

Opening 21st July, 2017

Curated by Christiane Rekaide

From 22 July -24 September 2017 Merano Arte will host two exhibitions: The American artist Helen Mirra (born 1970 in Rochester, New York, lives in northern California) and Gianni Pettena (born 1940 in Bolzano, lives in Florence).

Although they work quite differently they have one discussion in common: the landscape and its interpretation. Both exhibitions show a connection between the landscape in the Western United States and South Tyrol.

HELEN MIRRA - Walking, weaving

Helen Mirra's approach is usually based on long walks or excursions and the work is totally affected by this, and made simultaneously or in parallel.

Merano Arte has invited Helen Mirra to pass a month in Merano to prepare her exhibition. She will start with a walk of several days: on 16 June she opened her exhibition in the Andriess Eyck Gallery in Amsterdam. The day after she left for Merano partly on foot and partly by train. She decided every single day whether to go on foot or take the train by throwing a coin. With this work she is referring to the project „Variable Works (In Progress), 1970 by the American conceptual artist Douglas Huebler and *Marcheur de Kassel*, 1972 by the Polish artist Andre Cadere. A documentation of this excursion will be part of the exhibition in Merano.

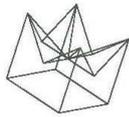
In Merano Helen Mirra will produce new woven objects which are in close relation to South Tyrol owing to the precise choice of material, forms and colours. Mirra compares the „Merano woven objects“ with a series of objects from Northern California - the region she went to live last year. The woven objects are concentrated colour and form compositions, experiences of a landscape. Material and structure underline the three-dimensionality of the woven objects.

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In addition to her own works Mirra shows *Standard Incomparable (2016/2017)*, a collection of weavings which have been made by different persons all over the world according to parameters defined by the artist. In the year 2016 Mirra started an international call to professional and hobby weavers to add a piece to her „Enzyklopedia“. Since this call was not translated into Italian there were no Italian pieces. Together with Merano Arte Mirra started a second call explicitly addressing the Italian weavers.

Helen Mirra work was shown in solo exhibitions at Renaissance Society, Chicago, Kunst Werken, Berlin, Haus Konstruktiv, Zürich and Berkley Art Museum. Mirra participated in the 50th Venice Biennial, the 20th Sao Paulo Art Biennial and the 12th Havana Biennial.

GIANNI PETTENA - Natural architecture

Gianni Pettena is co-founder and one of the most important representatives of the „radical Architecture“ of the seventies. Influenced by Conceptual Art and Land Art he develops his installations, photos, drawings and projects while watching nature and landscape and in his works quite often there are no borders between architecture and art.

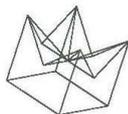
Although Gianni Pettena left Bolzano as a young adult, South Tyrol's landscape is fundamental for his artistic work and his comprehension of architecture. This exhibition shows us this constant relationship with the landscape of his native place.

Pettena is convinced that architecture is already present in nature and the human body and this conviction we can notice in his works. So he titles one of his fundamental photos series: *About non-conscious architecture (1972/1973)*. It is a collection of black and white photos, which Pettena made during his stay in the United States. They describe Pettena's engagement with natural materials and forms. Within the exhibition in Meran the series creates a dialogue between the two important cultural landscapes, where Gianni Pettena lived.

In his own work he analyses the innovative forms of contemporary art whereas as historian and art critic he is curating international architectural exhibitions (e.g. „Radicals. Architettura e Design 1960-1975“ Venice architectural Biennial, 1966 or „Radical Design“ Casa Masaccio, San Giovanni Valdarno, 2004). Gianni Pettena is as an artist as well as a theorist in architecture a very important reference also for young designers, artists and architects.

Pettena's were shown in international exhibitions such as: Venice Biennial, PAC Milan, Mori Museum Tokyo, Barbican Center, London and Centre Pompidou in Paris. His works are as well in the Centre Pompidou collection, Paris, FRAC Orleans and in the archives of the Venice Biennial.

Merano Arte and Museion, Bolzano together with the curator and critic Luca Cerizza are working at a publication regarding Pettena's work of the last 50 years. It will be published in Spring 2018.



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Title: HELEN MIRRA - Walking and weaving
GIANNI PETTENA - Natural Architecture

Length of the exhibition: July 22 - September 24 2017

Site: Merano Arte - Edificio Cassa di Risparmio
Portici, 163 I – 39012 Merano

Curator: Christiane Rekade

Opening: Friday July 21, 2017, at 08 pm

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Kindly supported by:



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