

Benedetta Manfredi

Portfolio

I was born in Florence and live and work there. I've been working across artistic disciplines for many years, which has produced a multiform body of work, which can be seen as a series of criss-crossing steps between modes and forms of expression. Sculpture, painting, photography, video, music and sound, interactive multimedia installations are the media in which I explore a number of recurring themes. The dialogue between the matter of which my work is made, and the time from which my work is transformed is at the heart of the investigation of my recent projects. The dynamic nature of every true balance is explored in each work through oppositions, such as both the waste and opportunity of time, extra-ordinary and ordinary moments, the coexistence of life and death.

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Yod

2013

In cooperation with Istituto degli Innocenti, Firenze

Dimensions: m 1,80 h x m 0,90 diam

Materials: Iron, tin, paper mache, glass.

Installations & Sculpture

The letter YOD, in Hebrew, though begin slightly bigger than a dot, hints at the essence of things, at that which is "beyond" (before and after) space and time. It thus represents both the idea of creation and the metaphysical dimension of the world. YOD has the shape of a large seed, inviting us to explore its insides. But it doesn't offer us a reassuring return to the "uterus", but a disorientating experience instead. The shape of the visitor is shattered and reflected on multiple mirrors, it is thus broken down and mixed up together with the images and sounds of a video, just chopped up and reflected. Its very content, being dominated by evocative combinations, contrasts, and analogies, seems to be losing every and all reference points. To those who carefully look, the images do reveal signs of a possible "different" meaning of things, as well as many possible stories of which a seed is in mysterious ways the "promise".



The Dendron Experience

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1L-NWiPD99Y>
2013

In cooperation with Istituto degli Innocenti Firenze
Dimensions: m 2,50 h x m 3,00 diam
Materials: Iron, wood, copper, glass.
Sound design: TEMPO REALE
Installations & Sculpture

The DENDRON tree, with its astonishing branches that shake and whisper with ever-changing effects and voices every time the wind blows or a person touches them, denies the traditional idea we have of a tree, questioning a rigid notion of identity. It is the symbol of the dynamic nature of every true balance, both physical and internal; that balance being a constant self re(turning) that begins with all things we come in contact with. Its leaves, made with different materials (oxidized copper, tin, crystal) express the added value we have when diversities interrelate, whatever their nature.

The Dendron Experience:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1L-NWiPD99Y>

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Wunde(r)

2015

In cooperation with
Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Amburgo
Dimensions: cm100 x cm100
Materials: Pvc.

Photography

Imperfections and failures, wounds and interruptions can be found in nature. Life unfolds itself through infinite forms. The eye cuts away a form from nature which is in itself a wound. But the material of it opens up to a new metamorphosis. This is a photograph taken from a mooring mast during a walk through the harbor at Riva del Garda and it is part of series made for the Wunde(r) exhibition that took place in Hamburg.

The catalogue of the exhibition is online:

<https://goo.gl/zWVE5G>

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Ora

2017

Not yet exhibited

Dimensions: cm 300 x cm 20

Materials: Pvc.

Sculpture and Photography

The necklace of ordinary miracles points to each and every moment which is valuable in itself. A series of small photographs catches the routine when you are putting on your socks. To be a mother occupied with daily activities feels like to be connected to life appreciated primarily for its beauty and emotional power.

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Tempus fugit 18'45"

2017

Not yet exhibited

Dimensions: cm 320 x cm 50

N. of bottles: 1107

Materials: glass. iron.

Sound Designer: Agnese Banti/TEMPO REALE

Sculpture

Each bottle represents one second. Time, materialized into space, can be perceived as a waste or as an opportunity. Time has also a different sound depending on how it is perceived or touched.

The work offers us the opportunity to experience our intimate relationship with the flow of life.

Mediterranea

2017

Work in progress

N. of bowls: 600

Materials: raku ceramics.

Sound Designer: Agnese Banti/ TEMPO REALE
Sculpture

A room full of empty ceramic raku bowls, black outside; dark-and sky-blue, turquoise, white, copper, different one from the other, inside. Displayed on the walls and the ceiling is a video of the sea.

Each bowl is hand made, imperfect, perfect. It receives and gives. Even when it is broken it remains concave and it can contain and offer. Roundness has no edges, it rotates, it possesses something akin to the infinite, like a space that is curved. It is the form of the universe. And, like the form of a bowl, we humans can be harbored or destroyed by the Mediterranean Sea. The work invites us to experience mixed feelings and contradictory ideas about the mystery of life.

Video of the sea

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLsqoEviKyw>