

Press release

ALFREDO JAAR
Abbiamo amato tanto la rivoluzione

Curated by Claudia Gioia

5 November 2013 – 2 February 2014

extended to 9 March, 2014

Opening November 5, Fondazione Merz presents **ALFREDO JAAR *Abbiamo amato tanto la rivoluzione***, a major exhibition curated by Claudia Gioia and dedicated to the work of one of the most uncompromising, compelling, and innovative artists working today.

Specifically created for this exhibition, Alfredo Jaar's new project plays on the idea of reflection (as both reproduction of images and thought or consideration) along the trajectory of his interest in the rapport between culture and democratic life, as he questions the sense of memory and political participation in the Sixties and Seventies. And he does so not as an act of commemoration, but rather to constantly engage in promoting culture as a decisive factor for change.

Consisting of about 60 artworks, the exhibition starts with a major installation that consist of millions of pieces of broken glass and mirror that cover most of the main exhibition space. As viewers walk on this reflecting surface of debris, they also move along the space of memory, and while engaged in self-reflection, they are invited to think over some difficult moments of our collective history. The remains of the lessons of history become the ground for hope and cultural rebirth.

In a second space, the artist orchestrates a dialogue with a 1970 work by Mario Merz titled ***Sciopero generale azione politica relativa proclamata relativamente all'arte***, bringing it to our present times through a poetic and nostalgic mise-en-scene.

Some walls of the Fondazione will be entirely covered by Alfredo Jaar's works, from those dating back to the Seventies to others specifically created for this exhibition. His works dedicated to Antonio Gramsci, Pier Paolo Pasolini, and Giuseppe Ungaretti, together with those produced during the dictatorship in Chile and the ones promoting political awareness will merge with the works by artists who have never ceased to question the world such as Mario Merz but also Alighiero Boetti, Luis Camnitzer, Valie Export, Hans Haacke, On Kawara, Yves Klein, Joseph Kosuth, Piero Manzoni, Fabio Mauri, Cildo Meireles, Yoko Ono, Giuseppe Penone, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Gerhard Richter, Nancy Spero and Lawrence Weiner.

Accompanying the exhibition is a catalog published by Fondazione Merz with essays by Claudia Gioia, an unpublished poem from the sixties by Nanni Balestrini and an interview of the artist by Luigi Fassi.

Alfredo Jaar (Santiago del Chile, 1956) is an artist, architect and filmmaker. His work has been shown extensively around the world. Simultaneous to his exhibition at the Fondazione Merz, the artist has been selected for the upcoming edition of Torino's *Luci d'Artista* that will open November 1. The artist has created a permanent work for the façade of the Biblioteca Nazionale di Torino.

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Exhibition Details

Title: ***ALFREDO JAAR. Abbiamo amato tanto la rivoluzione***
Artist: Alfredo Jaar
Dates: 5 November 2013 – 2 February 2014 (extended to 9 March, 2014)
Venue: Fondazione Merz, via Limone 24, 10141 Torino
Curated by: Claudia Gioia
Opens: Monday, November 4, 2013 at 7pm
Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 11am-7pm
Admission: € 5,00 adults, € 3,50 concessions (students, organized groups of 10 or more)
Free: children under 10, senior citizens, people with disabilities and every first Sunday of the month
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