

Nicola Martini

Sippe

opening May 27th

Kaufmann Repetto is happy to announce *Sippe*, Nicola Martini's first solo show at the gallery.

Sabha

Nicola Martini intervenes upon and works directly with the gallery's architectural structure in order to underline a fleeting distinction between "sculpture" and "exhibition space," engendering a unique environment that contains both the materiality and immateriality of his work.

Martini saturates the walls and ceiling of the gallery in bitumen of Judea, rendering the boundary between "space" and "artwork" porous through his physical engagement with the gallery's architectural elements.

Bitumen, a photosensitive tar, is used here to trigger a reaction between the walls and the light emanating from the windows. Material masses are later introduced into the exhibition space and interact physically with the created environment.

In this sense, Martini's new sculptures – fusions of colophony with microcrystalline wax, and glass with quartz sand – are to be considered as a semi-transparent filter between light and bitumen, a "thin" membrane that enables the various elements and matter to engage with one another.

On a parallel and equally necessary level, Nicola Martini uses the space for another kind of interaction: to create a place of encounter during the elaboration of the works in the gallery. The exhibition title, taken from the Sanskrit term *sabha* denotes, in fact, a group that has the right to an assembly house. Martini invites anthropologist Denise Lombardi and critic and collaborator Davide Daninos, to investigate with him an ongoing operation: the work in its process of becoming.

"[...] *sabha* is the workshop, located in a shared realm that is not only geographic, defined by the physical space of the studio, but a territory united and driven by the aims, passions, and above all the needs of the work; and it is work in the physical sense of the word, 'doing' and 'making', that is the common foundation of their activity, their *totem*" (Lombardi, 2013, pp. 60-61).

Utilizing diverse but complementary methodological tools Martini continues the research he began with the project-publication *Nervo Vago*. Here his work encountered anthropological and sociological methods, in order to develop "[...] the fertile potential deriving from the encounter with other points of view and areas of knowledge; to spark the development of new and different situations, in the search for new meaning, new *fuel to proceed*" (Daninos, 2013, p. 102).

References:

Davide Daninos, *Afterword* in VV. AA., *Nervo Vago*, Mousse Publishing, Milan, 2013.

Denise Lombardi, *It Happens Nonetheless...*, in VV. AA., *Nervo Vago*, Mousse Publishing, Milan, 2013.

Marcel Mauss, *Manuel d'ethnographie*, Petite Bibliothèque Payot, Paris, 1947.