

ALIGHIERO E BOETTI

Tra sé e sé, abbracciare il mondo

1994 | 2014 Remembering the artist on the 20th anniversary of his death

curated by Francesca Franco e Sergio Risaliti

GALLERIA CHRISTIAN STEIN
October 21st 2014 – February 28th 2015

OPENING Tuesday, October 21st, 2014
4 - 8 p.m. Pero (Mi) – Via V. Monti 46
7 - 9 p.m. Milano – Corso Monforte 23

Galleria Christian Stein, in collaboration with **Fondazione Alighiero e Boetti**, celebrates the artist Alighiero Boetti (Turin 1940 – Rome 1994) on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of death with a double exhibition hosted in two different gallery headquarters: the location in Corso Monforte in the heart of Milan and the wide exhibition's space located in the EXPO 2015 area in Via Vincenzo Monti in Pero. The historical gallery in Palazzo Cicogna Mozzoni presents some of the artworks introduced by the artist during his first two monographic exhibitions, previously held in January 1967 and February 1968 at Galleria Christian Stein then based in Turin. His first artworks are characterized by either three-dimensional tautology-based works and pieces of art realised with familiar objects (e.g. *Mancorrente*, *Tavelle*, *Pavimento*, *Parallelepipedo luminoso*, *Eternit*, *Mazzo di tubi*). A key role is played not only by the material used, far beyond from any possible symbolic and cultural reference, but also by the existing relationship between the object and the image, embracing the artist as a member of the new Italian movement Arte Povera, theorized by Germano Celant in 1967.

Within the exhibition's area in Pero, able to host monumental artworks thanks to its spaciousness, Sergio Risaliti and Francesca Franco illustrate the pluralistic evolution of Alighiero Boetti's artistic research, depicting his life as *man* and *artist* through a selection of about 40 artworks. The selection counts on the presence of photographic and sculptural self portraits (e.g. *Io che prendo il sole a Torino il 19 Gennaio 1969*), created by making use of photocopies, embroideries, ballpoint pens. The exhibition follows a structure based on four main themes: firstly, the body and secondly, the meaning of identity. Thirdly, the discovering of the *Other*, following the experience of travels visiting faraway destinations distant from Western world (i.e. Afganistan - 1971, Guatemala - 1974, Japan - 1985), thanks to which he created different kinds of artworks from a technical and conceptual point of view, which represent the result of a fruitful and open dialogue of the artist with unknown cultures and ancient civilisations. Finally, the last theme is the encyclopaedic vision which leads to analyze both materialistic and intangible aspects of the world such as the concept of time. An example is the artwork *Estate 70*, created on the occasion of a summer-long period of work in Milan in 1970 (which had not been exhibited since 2006), as well as the artwork *Anno 1990* which reveals the major events of the year through various magazine's frontpages. Further examples of Alighiero Boetti's encyclopaedic attitude are *Mappe*, whose creation started from 1971, maps of a world already caught by globalization, where *Postal Works* offer itineraries to follow in the countless and random possibilities of chance.

Highlights among the monumental artworks are: *51 Poesie con il sufi Berang*, made in 1988-89 on the occasion of the exhibition "Magiciens de la Terre" at the Centre George Pompidou in Paris; *Tra sé e sé*, 1987, *Œuvre Postale*, created on the occasion of his monographic exhibition at the MAGASIN – Centre National d'Art Contemporain in Grenoble in 1993 and then moved to Paris at the Musée de la Poste in 1994; his last artwork *Autoritratto*, a bronze cast of the body of the artist animated by an hydraulic system, exhibited in the Dutch Sonsbeek Park and then at Centre Pompidou's entrance in 1993.

About 60 artworks that represent a homage to the artist. Special thanks are addressed to Fondazione Alighiero e Boetti, to his Heirs and passionate collectors that made possible the exhibition of his artworks in honour of the beloved memory of Alighiero Boetti, man and artist.

On the occasion a catalogue edited by Sergio Risaliti and Francesca Franco will be published.

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Opening hours:

Pero (Mi) – Via V. Monti 46 Tuesday to Saturday 12 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Milano – Corso Monforte 23 Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m.– 1 p.m./ 2–7 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m.– 1 p.m./ 3–7 p.m.