

Neil Campbell

Via Giulia di Barolo
20 Maggio – 30 Luglio 2011

Galleria Franco Noero is pleased to present the second solo show by Neil Campbell in Torino.

The artist's work, highly synthetic and of strong impact on the sensorial perception, is based on the research on the essence of elementary geometrical shapes, in order to go beyond the sole visual experience, involving the observer in a broader sense: the search of a rhythmic sense in his wall compositions, realized using a solid, matt and nonreflecting paint, leads to a sharp perception of the space, however constantly changing.

Campbell's wall paintings vary in scale and proportions and define positive and negative spaces while pushing the boundaries of abstraction; they involve the entire human figure, coming to something he defines 'the electrical body', and while seeking for the core of forms they express concepts related to basic human perception.

The Canadian artist presents a project strongly inspired by the gallery building's architecture and by his peculiar structure that was surely a unique challenge for its designer Alessandro Antonelli. The wall drawings presented on three floors highlight and amplify the effect of distortion already present in the building, letting one discover unexpected details.

On the ground floor a big black wallpainting composed by intersecting sections of a circle suggests an enlargement of the space while commenting on its proportions. The compositional dynamism is heightened by the viewer's movement through the space, while one gets gradually completely caught by the pitch black of the painted walls.

The double height of the fourth floor gets emphasized by the torsion of a maroon rectangle that covers the corner of the room like a shadow, running for its entire height and spectacularly assuming a subtly tactile and mimetic quality. At the mezzanine level two facing ovals create a visual distortion that, despite its contained size, compete in scale with the corner intervention, allowing for the entire reading of the space.

The last room hosts two facing works that play on similarity and difference, like a flickering and intermitting neon light: their similarity looks at first enhanced but is immediately strongly denied by the corners' irregularities, constantly questioning the perception of the whole space, in which logic and regularity are ceaselessly contradicted.

Born in Saskatchewan, Canada, Neil Campbell has studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, at the Vancouver School of Art and at Concordia University in Montreal, where he has had the Master in Fine Arts in 1979. After almost twenty years of activity in New York, he moved to Vancouver where he lives and works. His work has appeared in several solo and group shows in International Institutions and private galleries, among which: CAG Contemporary Art Gallery Vancouver; Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York City; VAG Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver; Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York; Veneklasen Werner, Berlin; Blankett Gallery, Vancouver.

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