



Press release

Alessandro Vicario

CHROMATIC CONCEPTS

An exhibition curated by Gigliola Foschi and Flavia Zanetti

Vernissage on Saturday, March 13th, 2010 at 4 PM

Officinaarte, Magliaso (Lugano)

From Sunday, March 14th to Sunday, April 11th, 2010

Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 5 PM

Wednesday from 7 to 9 PM and by appointment

On Saturday, March 13th, 2010 at 4 PM, Galleria Officinaarte in Magliaso opens Alessandro Vicario's exhibition *Chromatic Concepts*, curated by Gigliola Foschi and Flavia Zanetti. The exhibition will be open to the public from Sunday, March 14th to Sunday, April 11th. The catalogue includes an interview with the artist by Flavia Zanetti and a critical presentation by Gigliola Foschi.

After two previous works by Alessandro Vicario, *Un paesaggio ritrovato. A Demonte e in Valle Stura sulle tracce di Lalla Romano [A Landscape Found Again. In Demonte and In the Stura Valley In the Tracks of Lalla Romano]* (2006), and *Immobilità apparente [Apparent Immobility]* (2008), the exhibition *Chromatic Concepts* completes a series of three works by the photographer hosted by Galleria Officinaarte. An important link exists between *Chromatic Concepts* and *Apparent Immobility*: it was in the Onsernone Valley while documenting the latter work that the author, fascinated by the valley's colours, began to plan the current series. Thus the exhibition includes an image from *Apparent Immobility*, which has played an inspiring role. In his research *Chromatic Concepts*, Vicario isolates the colours: the natural forms that are the generators for these hues are not clear to see. It is left up to the viewer to imagine the shapes, to perhaps catch a glimpse of them here and there; but then the author conceals them again behind images that can be monochrome and vibrant like Phil Sims' paintings, bright and iridescent like a work by David Simpson, or even gloomy and filled with darkness. It is as if his images intentionally oscillate towards the very matter of nature and sometimes towards abstraction, persistently remaining in an ambiguous gap, open to the viewer's interpretation. As Gigliola Foschi writes in the catalogue: «This author's images differ from the tradition of abstract photography, characterized by self-reflective, self-referential operations. In Vicario's work it is obvious instead that abstraction doesn't come as the result of a "narcissistic" reflection on photography but, at the very opposite, it comes from the magic spell exerted by the colours of nature».

Alessandro Vicario was born in Modena in 1968. Vicario has been practicing the art of photography since an early age under the tutelage of his father Ennio, a professional photographer. He then moved to Milan, where he still resides, and graduated in Modern Letters. From 1997, by way of a scholarship, he attended courses at the Istituto Italiano di Fotografia of Milan, where he has been teaching since 2005. He combines his professional activity with research works in which the topics of memory, nature and landscape are unfolded in relationship to the specific condition of photography, understood here as a trace of reality mediated by light. Born from a longing for knowledge, closeness and proximity, his images often look like finds rescued from destruction or oblivion, where the object, reproduced without artifice, becomes a presence rich in references. From 2000 to today, his works have been shown in several solo and collective exhibitions, in private galleries and public spaces, and accompanied by catalogues and other publications. Some of his works belong to private and public collections such as Alinari 24 ORE (Florence), Museum Villa dei Cedri (Bellinzona), Municipality of Losone (Canton Ticino), Cassa di Risparmio di Cuneo Foundation, San Fedele Foundation (Milan).

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