



FONDAZIONE ANTONIO RATTI

XX CSAV – Artists Research Laboratory
30 June – 23 July 2014

Tacita Dean *Comoggardising: the benefits of creative indolence*

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Info

XX CSAV – Artists Research Laboratory
Tacita Dean
Comoggardising: The benefits of creative indolence
30 June – 23 July 2014
Fondazione Antonio Ratti
Villa Sucota, Como

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In 2014 the CSAV – Artists Research Laboratory celebrates its 20th edition. This year, the summer workshop will be led by one of the most important living British artists: Tacita Dean.

Dean's works are known for their contemplative and slow pace. Whether they portray an artist near to the end of his life or depict a fleeting optical phenomenon – like the 'green ray' at sunset – their key subject is the passing of time and the moving beauty of what time erases.

The **theme** suggested by the artist for **XX CSAV** indeed relates to time. Titled **Comoggardising: the benefits of creative indolence** (*comoggardising* is a word created by Dean by combining *Como* with the English translation of 'sluggardising' writer Robert Walser's verb), the workshop aims to revalue the so called 'dead time', a time where the basic elements of creative process – contemplation, daydreaming, incidental thinking – can find their place. All participants are warned: "The level of brain idleness I want to encourage is very rigorous indeed and difficult to achieve".

Tacita Dean will discuss her work during the first public event of the workshop: her **lecture** on the **9th of July**, at **5.30 pm** at Villa Sucota.

In keeping with the subject, the workshop will host another master of the slow gaze as a *lecturer*, one of the most radical living movie directors: the Hungarian film-maker Béla Tarr, author of the grandiose *Sátántángo* (1994, lasting about 7 hours) and *The Turin Horse* (2011). Tarr's **lecture** will take place on the **16th of July** at **6.30 pm** at Villa Sucota.

As usual, the workshop programme includes two exhibitions: the group show of the participant artists – *Corso aperto* – and the solo show of the visiting artist, both opening on **9th of July**, respectively at **4.30 pm** and **7.30 pm**.

Corso aperto will be held in the suggestive **Villa del Grumello** in Como. It will introduce the audience to the work of the 16 young participant artists – from 10 different countries – selected among almost 700 applicants to the Foundation's open call.

Tacita Dean's solo show will be hosted at **Spazio Culturale Antonio Ratti**, the **former San Francesco Church** in Como. The show is named after **Craneway Event** – the 2009 film that will be projected for the first time in Italy – one of the artist's longest (108 minutes) and most important films. *Craneway Event* portrays Merce Cunningham – one of the most influential choreographers of the second half of XX century – months before his death at the age of 90. In the film the choreographer is lucid and focused, despite the age, while he directs from a wheelchair his dance company rehearsing in a large hall overlooking the San Francisco Bay. Dean's film is a passionate homage to Cunningham, but it is not exclusively focused on his persona. Reviewing the film during the editing phase, Dean felt that the great choreographer was – somehow – not only directing the rehearsal, but everything surrounding him that day. "I began to feel that Merce had set up the components that make up the film – the building, the

Exhibitions:

Corso Aperto

Preview: 9 July, 4.30 pm

Dates: 10 July 2013

Opening hours: 10 am – 6 pm

Venue: Villa del Grumello
via per Cernobbio 11, Como

Tacita Dean

Craneway event

Preview: 9 July, 7.30 pm

Dates: 10 July – 28 September 2014

Opening hours: Thursday – Sunday
4 – 8 pm

Screenings: 4 pm / 6 pm

Venue: Spazio Culturale Antonio
Ratti (former San Francesco Church)
Largo Spallino 1, Como

Lectures:

Tacita Dean

COMOGGARDISING: The benefits of creative indolence

Date: 9 July, 5.30 pm

Venue: Fondazione Antonio Ratti
Villa Sucota, via per Cernobbio 19
Como

Béla Tarr

Date: 16 July, 6.30 pm

Venue: Fondazione Antonio Ratti
Villa Sucota, via per Cernobbio 19
Como

dancers, the light, the ships and the birds – because he knew they would not fail him in absentia". *Craneway Event* bears witness to that unique combination of elements.

Tacita Dean (born in 1965 in Canterbury, UK) studied at Falmouth School of Art and the Slade School of Fine Art before moving to live and work in Berlin in 2000. Her films, drawings and other works are extremely original. Her recent film portraits express something that neither painting nor photography can capture. They are purely film. While Dean can appreciate the past, her art avoids any kind of academic approach. Dean's art is carried by a sense of history, time and place, light quality and the essence of the film itself. The focus of her subtle, but ambitious, work is the truth of the moment. The film as a medium and the sensibilities of the individual.

Dean's solo exhibitions include Tate Britain, London; MACBA, Barcelona (2001); Tate St Ives (2005); Schaulager, Basel (2006); Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2007); Nicola Trussardi Foundation, Milan (2009); MUMOK, Vienna; Turbine Hall (Unilever Series), Tate Modern, London (2011); and the New Museum, New York (2012). Solo shows in 2013 included: The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, 'JG' at Arcadia University Art Gallery, Philadelphia; Instituto Moreira Salles, Rio de Janeiro; Fundación Botín, Santander; Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), Melbourne; Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, MAMbo and in 2014 include: The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Utah Museum of Fine Arts, UMFA; National Gallery of Denmark, SMK.

Dean has taken part in many group exhibitions including: Venice Biennale (2003, 2005 and 2013), Sydney Biennale (2005 and 2014), Berlin Biennale (2014) and Sao Paulo Biennale (2006 and 2010). She also participated in dOCUMENTA (13) (2012). Dean was awarded the Hugo Boss Prize in 2006 and the Kurt Schwitters Prize in 2009.

The **CSAV – Artists Research Laboratory**, conceived and directed by Annie Ratti, is among one of the most prestigious artists' workshops in Europe. Every year since 1995, in July, an internationally acclaimed artist shares her/his vision and experience with a group of emerging artists – recruited through an open call. Detached from the traditional teaching methods, CSAV privileges improvisation, debate and growth. The workshop formula includes – besides the teaching and discussing hours – a solo show of the invited artist, a group show of the participant artists and a publication, outcome of the workshop activity.

Past invited artists of CSAV were: Joseph Kosuth (1995), John Armleder (1996), Allan Kaprow (1997), Hamish Fulton (1998), Haim Steinbach (1999), Ilya Kabakov (2000), Marina Abramovic (2001), Giulio Paolini (2002), Richard Nonas (2003), Jimmie Durham (2004), Alfredo Jaar (2005), Marjetica Potrc (2006), Joan Jonas (2007), Yona Friedman (2008), Walid Raad (2009), Hans Haacke (2010), Susan Hiller (2011), Liliana Moro (2012), and Matt Mullican (2013).