



PRESS RELEASE

ANTONIO BARRESE. MORPHOLOGY
Ffrom the object to the image

curated by
Stefania Gaudiosi

Antonio Barrese will be present at the opening.

Opening
Saturday, June 4th 2022
From 3.00 PM to 8.00 PM

On view
From Sunday, June 5th to Sunday, September 11th 2022
Every day, 10.30 AM – 7.30 PM



The Fondazione Sozzani presents **Antonio Barrese's exhibition “Morphology, from object to image”**, curated by **Stefania Gaudiosi**. Presented here, samples of of Antonio Barrese’s research (Milan, 1945), merge art, design, technology and science.

Barrese started very young as a member of the Gruppo MID (Mutamento Immagine Dimensione), founded in Milan in 1965 and in time he dedicated himself to Kinetic Art, design, Visual Narrative, didactics, theory of art and project, morphological researches, photography and experimental cinema.

This relentless research has led Barrese to distill a very personal language, with unique characteristic traits that cross different expressive territories, from photography to design, from art to corporate communication.

The focus of the exhibition is the production of images, the result of a complex interaction between kinetic objects and filming devices, which allows to represent what the human eye does not perceive and that would remain extraneous to knowledge. The starting nucleus was born from the “Synthetic Images”, which, developed over the course of seven years from 1965 to 1972, concerned the production of abstract images obtained through the medium of photography.

Many interactive works, which use mechanical, electromechanical, electronic components to create different outcomes. His is, for example, the *Albero di luce*, set in front of the Castello Sforzesco in Milan between 2009 and 2010 on the occasion of the centenary of the birth of Futurism, a large kinetic and luminous installation 33 meters high, capable of generating continuous chromatic variations. On show is an immersive environmental installation that produces swarms of luminous sparks, continuous electrical short circuits.

The environment in which Barrese works is that of design, science, techniques, and the project. His poetics is that of Research, of art as science. Stroboscopic generators of luminous interferences, tracing lines, flashing lights, are instruments conceived and realized to produce a "segment of effects", that is a range of variability of a continuous optical phenomenon, with very wide fields of variability from which the Synthetic Images originate, then the new series of *Morphology Images*.

Light is an element of continuity in Barrese's production, from the Stroboscopic Generators to the Tracer Generators and the Interference Generators – all interactive works – up to the large environmental works and the Geographic Art of *FlowingRiver_RioAmazonas*.

This is a research that Barrese defines as “meta-linguistic genetics” as it concerns the very genesis of form, in the conviction that the latter determines the linguistic structures of a still unexplored world, of the “world that is about to be” and that art fulfills, trying with study and tenacity to offer “new probabilities to the impossible.”



Antonio Barrese was born in Milan in 1945. He completed the studies at the Academy of Brera and debuted very young. In 1964 he founded the MID Group together with Alfonso Grassi, Gianfranco Laminarca and Alberto Marangoni. The activity of MID is very rich and extensive, including the creation of objects and structures, interactive installations and large installations, photographs and experimental films, performances of visual-acoustic synaesthesia and environmental projects, all conceived with an extraordinary open-mindedness towards technology. Also in 1965 took place the first exhibition dedicated to the group: *Immagini stroboscopiche* at the Galleria Danese in Milan. More than four hundred personal and collective exhibitions followed, in galleries and museums in Italy and abroad until 1972, the year in which the MID broke up. In the same year Barrese began the activity of designer and obtained numerous recognitions (three Golden Compasses, prizes and honourable mentions). He is also interested in Visual Narrative experimenting with the encounter between different languages with the fusion of image and writing (*TrashZappingPixel*). In 2007 the VAF Foundation of Frankfurt dedicated to MID an important publication: *MID At the Origins of Multimedia*. From programmed art to interactive art (Silvana Editoriale, Milan). In 2011 he founded with Stefania Gaudiosi a company of artistic and cultural innovation that operates in Brazil “OperaAperta Arte Pubblica”. His works are in relevant public and private collections.

Stefania Gaudiosi, scholar and art theorist, with particular interest in Kinetic Art and in the work of the avant-garde composer Iannis Xenakis, she is the author of several essays dedicated to the themes of contemporaneity, multimedia and new media. She is co-founder, together with Antonio Barrese, of the professional group OperaAperta, active in Italy and Brazil, where since 2011 she coordinates the project *FlowingRiver_RioAmazonas*. In 2012 she founded ScholaFelix, a group of artistic and cultural innovation. Particularly attentive to the issues of art education, since 2014 she coordinates the courses ScholaFelix Basic and FelixLab for children, teens and adults, aimed at spreading a greater artistic and formal awareness, and the enhancement of personal talent as a way to access happiness. She is the author of the video-interview series “Art is a dolphin”, dialogues on the contemporary.

FONDAZIONE SOZZANI

The Fondazione Sozzani was established in 2016 by Carla Sozzani and is dedicated to the promotion of culture through photography, fashion, the fine arts, and applied arts. The Foundation has assumed the patronage of Galleria Carla Sozzani and continues all relevant public functions that the Galleria has supported since 1990. www.fondazione-sozzani.org