

BIZHAN BASSIRI

THE FALL OF THE METEORITES
IN THE VITAL HOURS PRECEDING THEIR VISION

21st May 2009

Florence

Arcetri Astrophysics Observatory, direction by Francesco Palla
Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri a cura di Francesco Palla

The Academy Gallery curated by Franca Falletti
Galleria dell'Accademia a cura di Franca Falletti

Palazzo Strozzi curated by James M. Bradburne
Palazzo Strozzi a cura di James M. Bradburne

Text by Bruno Corà

To commemorate the anniversary of the discoveries made by Galileo, the inauguration of the exhibition by Bizhan Bassiri "The fall of the meteorites in the vital hours preceding their apparition" will be held in Florence on May 21st.

The project consists of the installation of sculptural works by Bassiri called "Meteorites" in the cities of Ghent (Belgium), Florence and Rome.

The choice of the venues is not casual for these are all cities who by their very nature conserve at their core elements of interest in the research of nature, man and the universe.

Hence after the "fall" of a number of Meteorites at the Stedelijk Museum Von Actuele Kunst (Ghent) and in the Cathedral of San Bavo (Ghent) on the 25-26 April, several Meteorites also arrive in Florence on May 21st and will remain on view until 30th August 2009. The last of these commemorative events will take place in Rome at the theatre Argentina on 28th May 2009.

In Florence the project will be celebrated over the course of one day. Starting with tours in that place most in harmony with the universe, the Astrophysical Observatory "Arcetri", the event directed by Francesco Palla is organised so that the visitor is accompanied by astrologers through the observatory.

The celebrations continue in one of Florence's most renowned art galleries, the Galleria dell'Accademia curated by its director Franca Falletti and continues on to Palazzo Strozzi where the event is hosted by the director of the Foundation of Palazzo Strozzi, James M. Bradburne. The choice to end the inauguration at the museum is because this is where the exhibition "Galileo. Images of the universe from antiquity to the telescope", is housed.

The installations "Meteorites" are works made from volcanic rock and fused into bronze, creations of the artist Bizhan Bassiri, they represent the materialization of the artistic intuition of the artist: the energy expressed by the magmatic nature of the matter.

The meteorites are for Bassiri a metaphor for the art work. Like the atmospheric dust of the universe the work becomes incandescent, evolving into what for us Bassiri's "Meteorite", in this way the work of art transcends matter and becomes a work of art. To quote the artist from his manifesto "Manifesto of Magmatic Thought" the artist writes "the work of art in the world is a meteorite from the universe, it does not belong to the earth but it appears there."

The event is organised in collaboration with the contemporary art gallery "Gallerja" Rome.

Useful information:

Title: *Bizhan Bassiri: la caduta delle meteoriti nelle ore che anticipano la visione*
Bizhan Bassiri: the fall of the meteorites in the vital hours preceding their vision.

Dates: 21st May - 30th August 2009

Press conference: 21st May, Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri, at noon -12.00

Date of the inauguration: 21st May 2009

Venues and hours:

Osservatorio Astrofisico, Arcetri, Firenze, Largo Fermi 5, at noon - 12.00

Galleria dell'Accademia, Firenze, Via Ricasoli 58-60, at 18.30.

Piazza Strozzi, Firenze, at 19.30

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