

maria cristina carlini

Maria Cristina Carlini – Experiences in the Urban Space

The relationship of art with the urban space has a special meaning in Maria Cristina Carlini's work of. Her three-dimensional work is located - in expository terms - in squares or streets, in front of monuments of historical connotation of different cities around the world. The city itself is transformed into a set for her exhibitions. Her work creeps into the urban fabric, inviting citizens to pass by on their daily routes, to reconsidering the meanings of the same places, as such, differentiating their social use.

In another perspective, through the view of cultural values, the intervention she makes within the city area provides a tangible bond that unites past and present.

She faces, thus, the historical temporality, animating the citizen-viewer's sensitivity and leading him to the experience that enables the social and individual memory. The artist establishes a communication between city space and art space, proposing, ultimately, the work of art as a public place.

In so doing, streets, squares and urban architecture itself become matters for her work just like stone, steel, bronze or iron.

All this constitutes the link; it is part of her aesthetic field in which the viewer acts. Sculpture, installation or intervention — her work plays with the skills of perception, creates situations to be tested.

In communication with the viewer, the work casts riddles, dialogues with citizens and “with the city, penetrating its soul”, as the artist herself says.

It is significant, therefore, to consider how Maria Cristina Carlini's artistic practice in the space of cities projects as key factors of the aesthetic reception the reality of the place where the work is placed, its monumental scale compared to the onlookers and to the phenomenological experience it produces in them through perception.

Art as a formal idea and art as an action intertwine dynamically with one another in conditions that are peculiar to contemporary art.

Lisbeth Rebollo Gonçalves