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Davide Cascio
Rooms, Roses, Polyhedrons

Manor Ticino Cultural Award

Museo Cantonale d'Arte, Lugano
23 November 2007– 6 January 2008

Opening: Thursday 22 November, 6.30 p.m.

Starting from the 23rd of November the second floor of the Museo Cantonale d'Arte will house a one-man exhibition by Davide Cascio, the artist who has won this year's Manor Ticino Cultural Award.

The exhibition entitled ***Rooms, Roses, Polyhedrons*** presents the public with a series of recent works by this young artist. Born in Lugano in 1976, over recent years he has established his position as one of the most interesting personalities of the artistic scene of Ticino.

The work by Davide Cascio is complex. Rich in references to the past, his work interweaves motifs taken not only from the world of the visual arts but also from architecture, literature, philosophy and the cinema. Guiding the artist inside the archives of history there is a process of association which in the planning of his works allows him to recompose and once again elaborate elements from very different historical and cultural sources. A work of research in which one finds the need - shared by many artists of the recent generations - to go back to reflect about and confront the theme of modernity.

The geometrical rigour of the "architectures" elaborated by the artist, in which one sees the influence of the radical Architecture of the 1960s, does not exclude figurative elements. In his collages, a technique which the artist often employs, the 'coupling' of photographic fragments taken from diverse sources serves to delineate utopian landscapes or else to furnish fragments of reality in abstract compositions in which one sees his interest for the ornamental schemes of the Islamic tradition.

The five installations presented in this exhibition make up an equal number of spaces which represent the concrete realizations of paths of thought, of the architectural models that define the "mental space within which it is possible to construct utopias".

The Manor Award which has for years been given in numerous Swiss regions and cities is one of the most important prizes in the Swiss contemporary art scene. Adjudicated to artists who are under 40, its intention is to both promote young talented artists who are still not known to the general public and provide them with concrete support. In fact, the Award comprises the organization of an exhibition, the publication of a catalogue and a financial grant. In Ticino the Manor Award, founded in 2005, is given every two years.

Exhibition curated by Elio Schenini

Catalogue with texts by
Elio Schenini, Mounira Khemir, Christa-Maria Lerm Hayes
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Davide Cascio, Polyhedra (stanza per leggere L'Ulisse di Joyce), 2004

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Opening hours: Tuesday 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday to Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday closed

www.museo-cantonale-arte.ch

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