

Maurizio Bolognini

Infinity out of control. Programmed Machines, 1990-2005

As part of "4 Rooms", a series of exhibitions at the Villa Croce Museum of Contemporary Art that has already seen the first two sections by Plamen Dejanoff and Flavio Favelli, Maurizio Bolognini presents his exhibition "Programmed Machines, 1990-2005", a selection of his most significant works, including his first computers programmed to produce flows of random images and left to work indefinitely: *Imaging Machines* and *Computer sigillati* (1988 and 1992, respectively).

Maurizio Bolognini, who has been working with digital technologies since the 1980s, is considered the most radical artist in the New Technology movement, having focused his work on devices and their physiology, and doing away with any symbolic superstructure (Mario Costa). The artist himself emphasises that his machines (by now there are hundreds of them), programmed to produce continuous flows of random images (or other kinds of processing: numerations, texts, voices, etc.), serve to generate "out-of-control infinities", and to create parallel universes of information, thus moving research "from the level of meanings to that of the devices and their operations" – in relation to which he stands as both maker and spectator.

It has been underlined that Bolognini's work makes it possible to refocus on the problematic of art within the new technological context (Robert C. Morgan). The artist considers the element of "delegating to the machine" central to his research, which means giving up control but also making it possible to expand gestures to infinity: the "disproportion" which is created between the artist and his work – he underlines – "becomes a new version of the disproportion between us and reality, which for the first time we can contemplate, reducing it to an experiment and a show".

This is evident in many of his works: in the *Computer sigillati* series, which Villa Croce also presented in an installation in the show "Il viaggio dell'uomo immobile" (2003); in the *Atlas 2* series, where he uses software whose design has been delegated to programmers from different countries; in the artificial intelligence applications used in AIMS (*Artificial Intelligence Mediated Sublime*); and in the collective intelligence applications used in the CIMs (*Collective Intelligence Machines*), interactive installations connected to the mobile telephone network. One of these latter is presented at this exhibition. It is an installation located at two different sites (one inside the Museum itself and the other in a street in the centre of Genoa), coordinated across the phone network and allowing the public, using their own mobile phones, to interfere with the otherwise self-sufficient functioning of his programmed machines.

On the occasion of the exhibition Villa Croce has bought one of the artist's installations, made up of two programmed machines, for its own collection.

Published by Neos, the catalogue (in Italian and English) has been edited by Sandra Solimano and contains texts by Mario Costa, Giulio Giorello, Derrick de Kerckhove, Simonetta Lux, Angela Madesani, Robert C. Morgan, Enrico Pedrini, Domenico Scudero and Sandra Solimano.

Opening hours:

Tuesday - Friday 9 am – 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday 10 am – 7 pm; Closed Mondays