

Angelo Bellobono

From Sarajevo to Saint Moritz (2003/2011)

This project, a natural continuation of a long series of works based on the 'ski resort' and 'entertainment', developed out of an invitation to organize an event at Saint Moritz.

It was natural to associate this unique and renowned resort with the equally unique and famous winter sports resort of Sarajevo.

Two places which encapsulate the sense and nonsense of human behaviour.

S. Moritz, symbol of extreme luxury but also home to sporting achievements and a spectacular natural landscape.

Sarajevo, a theatre of European history, host of the 1984 Winter Olympics and backdrop to the bloody conflict familiar to us all.

Here we find all the material typical of humanity and of human life, its multi-faceted relationship with nature, pleasure, performance, hatred, creativity, the interminable process of destruction and reconstruction typical of our planet and its inhabitants, of its chemical and organic composition. Crucially, all these properties have been taken to an extreme in St Moritz and Sarajevo; suffice it to remember the massive economic and organizational efforts put into the Winter Olympics by Sarajevo, only to produce an even greater destructive force a few years later. And what can we say of the concentration of wealth in a single place like S. Moritz, a symbol of absolute well-being. Two areas in which skiing does not necessarily hold the same meaning. This how the idea of an imaginary ski run arose, a long and very difficult piste linking the two resorts, which for me symbolize existence itself.









Biography

From a past as a professional skier, trainer and free-rider, fogs, bodies and territories re-emerge, frozen and then melted, speed and instability; the vast spaces of Patagonia or the Alps return, at the mercy of nature at its most extreme, changing and modifying all certainties, all reference points, accustoming us to difference, irony and fear. In the same way, the years of community centres and fanzines, which subsequently became wellness centres or clubs or glamour magazines, reveal the processes of assimilation and institutionalization of subcultures and ideologies. After working as a graffiti and installation artist in the early 80s/90s and taking a degree in Motor Sciences in 1988, began nomadic years which led him first to live in France alongside two very different artists, Bertrand Lavier and Roberto Combas, and later in California with Liza Lou, Bill Viola, Bedia and Peter Halley. In 2000 he returned to Italy and Rome, where he lives for about 6 months a year, the remainder being spent in New York.

From the beginning of his career, Angelo Bellobono has always placed humanity and the territory at the centre of his artistic research, stressing the difficult relations of belonging and identity, understood not simply in the socio-cultural but also in a biological sense. The mechanisms by which biochemistry translates into behaviours and emotions is the thread running through all his paintings, videos and performances.

A sense of dramatic irony thus pervades his portraits, lost in a blinding whiteness or in a dark sea of crude oil, at once liquid and solid, conceptually unstable and temporary, dependent on their chemical sense of biological precariousness. They reveal the constant efforts made to seek out an identity and a place in which to belong, a constant freezing and unfreezing of hidden or denied existences and of an ideal well-being. Bellobono gives form and consistency to a sampler of emotions experienced by all human beings; in his most recent works, which also probe the drive to immigrate, this investigation once again combines painting with performance and video art.

So we find female body builders training with anorexic youths (*Cardiofrequenze* 1999), the training programmes developed for marines in fashionable wellness centres (*Body life program* 2003), icebergs drifting like nations, guarded by armies of toy soldiers from different civilizations (*Temporary civilization* 2006), migrants pedalling spinning bikes, lighting with the energy produced a sign displaying a call to wellness (*Chist'è o' paese d'ò sole*, *Fondazione Volume-Union* 2008) or moving crates of fruit to reveal their portrait, recontextualizing identity in a new territory (from ecuador to rome, *Wunderkammern* 2009), post-punks in a hypothetical community centre which ironically becomes an elegant wellness centre do pilates and yoga to the sound of God save the queen, turned into a New Age mantra (*Lowlife well-being center*, *Changing Role* 2009, *Lowereast life* 2009 *Envoy NY* and *Eastside Biosaart* 2010 *Bali*), Africans tackling blocks of ice, archives of memory and identity which melt on the skin (*Afrika(n)ice*, 2010-2011), the spreading mediocrity and denied freedoms starting from John Stuart Mill (*About freedom and Decimate mediocrity*, 2010/2011).

Solo exhibition

- 2011 “Vis à vis” a cura di Nicola Davide Angerame, Whitelabs, Milano
- 2010 “Eastside – The journey” Biasa Artspace, Semyniak, Bali, Indonesia
- 2009 “Low Life Wellbeing Center_Bunker House” curated by Alessandro Facente, Changing Role Gallery, Napoli
- 2009 “Lower east life” curated by Serena Trizzino – Envoy Gallery, New York
- 2008 “Chist’ è o’ paese d’o’ sole” curated by Alessandro Facente – Fondazione Volume L’Union, Rome
- 2006 “Temporary Civilization” curated by Francesca Franco - Galleria Il Sole artecontemporanea, Rome
- 2006 “Consolato italiano a Londra” Winner Premio Celeste 2005
- 2006 “Futuro Presente Primordiale” curated by Gianluca Marziani - Galleria Artsinergy, Bologna
- 2005 “Osservatorio Bellobono” curated by Alessio Verzenassi – Galleria il Sole artecontemporanea, Rome
- 2004 “Recruitment” curated by Lorenzo Canova - Galleria Altri lavori in corso, Rome
- 2003 “Body Life Program” curated by Lorenzo Canova – Studio d’Arte Fedele, Monopoli
- 2003 “Extrasistole e Pace Maker” curated by Raffaele Gavarro – DAG Art Gallery, Livorno
- 2002 “Aria Compressa” curated by Ludovico Pratesi and Lorenzo Canova, Casa Pratesi, Rome
- 2001 “Cardiofrequenze” curated by Lorenzo Canova - Palestra Linea, Rome

Group exhibition

- 2011 “Crosscurrents” a cura di Marinù Padano e Marta Boeri, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2010 “Difforme” curated by Lorenzo Canova, Aratro Museo Università di Campobasso
- 2010 “Sbandati” curated by Lorenzo Canova, Ex Gil, Roma
- 2010 “Under italian eyes” Museum of modern art – Cairo - Egypt
- 2010 “Impresa Pittura” curated by Raffaele Gavarro and Claudio Libero Pisano, CIAC Centro Internazionale per l’Arte Contemporanea Castello Colonna Genazzano (Rm)
- 2009 “Titled/Untitled” curated by Alberto Dambruoso and Micol Di Veroli, Wunderkammern, Rome
- 2009 “The road to contemporary art” Changing Role Gallery, Palazzo Venezia, Rome
- 2009 “I_D Intersecting identities” curated by Dominique Lora – Halles de Saint Gery, Bruxelles
- 2009 “Gustovagando” curated by Simona Cresci and Lina Calenne - Macro FUTURE, Rome
- 2008 “Ambientarti” curated by Davide Sarchioni and Cristina Antonini - Palazzo dei Priori, Viterbo
- 2008 “Young blood” Opera Gallery, New York
- 2008 XV Quadriennale di Roma – Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome
- 2008 “Experimenta” Farnesina Collection Ministero degli Esteri, Rome
- 2007 “Paesaggi Metropolitan” curated by Giorgia Calò – Museo laboratorio La Sapienza, Rome
- 2007 “Ficci Frame festival” Renaissance Hotel, New Delhi, India
- 2007 “OnThe Edge of Vision” curated by Lorenzo Canova - Victoria memorial hall Calcutta Museum of Modern art Mumbay and New Delhi, India
- 2006 “Art Territory” curated by Simona Cresci and Dominique Lora - Centrale Montemartini, (Rm)
- 2005 “Pasolini e Roma” curated by Lorenzo Canova and Enzo Siciliano Museo di Roma in Trastevere, Rome
- 2005 “Winner Premio Celeste” Final show at Magazzini del sale, Siena
- 2005 “TEC” curated by Alessio Verzenassi and Manuela Annibali – Scuderie Aldobrandini, Frascati (Rome)
- 2005 “Unmediated” curated by Matteo Basile – Galleria Tossi, Firenze