ANDREONI_FORTUGNO 2003-2005

WAR

A project on some World War I big military memorial chapels in the eastern part of Italy (Redipuglia and Oslavia), completed after the invitation from Francesco Bonami at the exhibition "La Dolce Crisi. Fotografia Contemporanea in Italia".

The work starts with a small picture of an inscription in Redipuglia that says "Let you be guided by an inspirational purpose more than by the curiosity of seeing"

(From the catalogue of 'La Dolce Crisi')

Luca Andreoni and Antonio Fortugno use photography to explore and reflect on the expressive and symbolic value of contemporary inhabited architecture. Through the analysis of community housing and the evolution of its forms in the las few decades, their work shows the existential potential and the social changes implicit in the development of large urban suburbs. In their images balconies, facades, doors and windows become elements through which to dissect and amplify the meanings of human geography. Recently the research carried out by the two artists has also investigated the use of portraiture in public iconography and its contribution, in a similar way of architecture, in the evolution of political communication.

For the project entitled WAR the two artists collected, between 2003 and 2005, images of the military memorial chapels in Oslavia and Redipuglia which were built in the middle of the 1930s to hold the mortal remains of more than 150.000 soldiers who died during the First World War. The order and sobriety of the memorial stones is interrupted by the bloody red of the sumac bushes that cover the plateau between San Martino del Carso and Redipuglia, an autumnal image that metaphorically commemorates the suffering and death of so many men. Andreoni_Fortugno bring together in their work an essential formal exploration with a careful attention to detail, creating representations that constantly shift from a descriptive to a symbolic level: on the one hand, the propagandistic stateliness of the Fascist architecture and, on the other, the suffering implicit in the war and in the memory of the men who fought it.



"Let you be guided by an inspirational purpose more than by the curiosity of seeing" Sacrario di Redipuglia (Go)





Some detail of previous images, a demo of the exhibition project and installation views

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