

Rebecca De Marchi, Marzia Migliora and Francesco Gabrielli, *Un milione di alberi sacri e nessun dio. Performance, video. Come immaginare. Diario degli eventi artistici a Stupinigi, Stupinigi Fertile, Torino, 2015*

The performance *Un milione di alberi sacri e nessun dio* (A million sacred trees and no god) arises from the collaboration between Francesco Gabrielli, dancer and actor, and Marzia Migliora, visual artist. Gabrielli and Migliora intervene on the territory of Stupinigi with a work of collection: stories of people and places, agricultural practices, family tales and rural life traditions. The work is rooted in the peasant culture and it proposes a contemporary rereading of it, in which imagination, reality, holy and earthly worlds live together. The drama dwells on the ineluctable and contradictory liaison among man and nature and the untameable element of the events imposed by nature. The effort and the everyday work in the fields are not sufficient to guarantee a good profit from the crop, which inevitably results dependant on the atmospheric factors. The attempt to tame them, beyond any possibility, becomes a prayer, a vow.

Five performers and the musical band of Nichelino, formed by forty-five elements, create seven scenic pictures in the natural theatre of the park. An itinerant performance whose scenery is offered by poplars, cultivated fields, an ancient pheasantry and an azure wooden little house. The actions and the classical, pop and blues music accompany the public in a path of acquaintance with the territory, among sceneries that moves from mystic to profane on the edge of sensual.

The narrative structure opens with the welcoming of the public in the farm. Room with soil pavement combed as a precious carpet. From on high the gloomy sky closes the space. In the middle, the trailer of a tractor on which seats a man, who wears working clothes and tells in first person, in dialect, about the job of the farmer. Then he goes down and invites the public to follow him, to get out of the farm, to walk towards the park, towards the fields. In the meanwhile, it is possible to hear a music that can make envisage a village fair. On route, a radio attached to a pale is tuned in to Radio Maria frequency, which transmits non-stop: a noise - real or wished - for the animals, a virtual human presence to keep them away at night. A foretelling figure of bad omen stands out from the background and guides movement of the public to the sound of a bell. From the pheasantry rises the *Laudate Dominum* of Mozart played by the band, the listening people turn towards it. In the meanwhile, behind them, a tractor gets closer, it has a long outstretched arm to which is linked a big wheel, on it lays a man with an elegant outfit. Reaching the pheasantry, the wheel is untied, the man left alone starts a dance, a vortex, a rite between earth and sky on the notes of a banjo which accompanies a desperate ballade by Bob Dylan. In the space the dance continues, it links to a feminine figure who sings the *Laudate Dominum* and it finally unfastens with the run of the man in the woods. The two figures get back together under the threatening sound of thunders, a further rotation of the public towards a field where an anti-hail cannon-man dances to move the danger away, between science and myth, till the man, naked, gets back to the land and the woman goes away singing *Halo* by Beyoncé. The public is invited to move towards the azure little house, here a voice from within, narrates the miraculous appearance of the Madonna in the park, meanwhile, a lady granting love, exits from the house and drives away on her car. The band around plays the Winter of Vivaldi and then, on the notes of the *Monviso* walks towards the farm followed by the public. There is no curtain, it is the end of the music that brings the show to its conclusion.

In collaboration with Giuliano Girelli, the artists realised a video work, with an homonym title, that registers and restores with artistic autonomy the performance. The video has been presented to the Torino Film Festival in November, 2014. (*Rebecca De Marchi*)

Un milione di alberi sacri e nessun dio (A million sacred trees and no god), Performance, 40' circa, 2014

artwork by Francesco Gabrielli and Marzia Migliora, with the participation of Compagnia Teatro di Castalia / Teatro Superga, Banda "Giacomo Puccini" - Nichelino, Azienda Agricola Avattaneo and B&B "La Dimora di Artemide"; on stage: Luca Andriolo, Enrico Avattaneo, Roberta Cortese, Francesco Gabrielli, Marzia Migliora, Davide Pedrini, the Banda "Giacomo Puccini" - Nichelino; sound design "Onda d'urto": MINUS (Minus & Plus); audio editing "Una sfera di luce": Alessandro Esposito

Un milione di alberi sacri e nessun dio (A million sacred trees and no god), Video, 10' 38", colour, sound, 2014

direction: Francesco Gabrielli, Giuliano Girelli, Marzia Migliora; subject and screenplay: Francesco Gabrielli, Marzia Migliora; film, photography, audio and editing: Giuliano Girelli; cast: Enrico Avattaneo, Luca Andriolo, Roberta Cortese, Francesco Gabrielli, Marzia Migliora, Davide Pedrini and Banda "Giacomo Puccini" - Nichelino