

## Virginia Fagini 1945-2003

Frascati, Scuderie Aldobrandini  
19 March - 30 April 2011

The Comune di Frascati, in collaboration with the artist's archives and the scientific collaboration of the Galleria nazionale d'arte moderna, presents the first retrospective exhibition of Virginia Fagini, an artist who died in 2003.

Frascati hosted her for the first time in 1977, on the occasion of the exhibition *Arte come Procedimento*, an important event that was organized in some council buildings and in the squares and streets of the town. She was also hosted in 2003 during the event *I colori delle Donne*, in the historical building Scuderie Aldobrandini.

The exhibition, curated by Angelandreina Rorro and Valeria Sassanelli will be held in halls of the Scuderie Aldobrandini and contains a wide selection of works the artist made over 30 years. From 1972 to 2003, Virginia Fagini carried out research into abstract lines, brushstrokes and forms that would evolve through various art forms, including painting, graphics and the artist's books. 85 of the artist's works will be exhibited including canvases, paintings on paper and masonite, artist's books and etchings.

Angelandreina Rorro wrote in the catalogue: "We could define Virginia Fagini's abstractism as that of a sign, which assumed the main role in her work in 1974, when the artist increased her production of graphic design on paper and even more so from 1977, when she concentrated on the function, nature and quality of the sign. [...] From the mid-eighties, Virginia's works become enriched by a light component also through a renewed use of colour. Guido Strazza – artist and friend – describes the colour "like the state of light".

Giorgio Di Genova wrote in the catalogue: "Having undertaken her artistic journey with her lush, graphic textures, Virginia Fagini soon felt the need to paint, a goal she was able to achieve by dilating the line until it expanded into colour, on brush strokes heavy with signs, both visibly and introjected in the act of pictorial gesture itself, thus implementing a successful combination of her graphic temperament with painting".

A section will be dedicated to portraits by the American photographer Bob Willoughby, who died in 2009. He photographed Virginia all her life from the age of 11 for his artistic research about the transformation of the child into a woman; a project in which he documented the evolution of the female-body throughout the cycle of life. Bob Willoughby, the renowned still photographer of Hollywood sets in the 1950's and 1960's, who immortalized set of important films such as *Rosmary's baby*, *The Graduate*, *A star is born*, will be on exhibition again in Italy for the first time since 1987.

The catalogue, edited by Palombi, contains critiques by Angelandreina Rorro e Giorgio Di Genova, and includes a selection of 138 of the artist's works, created between 1967 and 2003.