

On Thursday May 18th, from 18 to 20,30, galleria Davide Gallo, via Carlo Farini 6, 2nd yard, in cooperation with Noon, is pleased to announce “**Spazio n-dimensionale**” the first retrospective show of **Natalino Tondo** (Salice Salentino, 1938 - Lecce, 2017), curated by Lorenzo Madaro.

In this project, the gallery wishes to focus attention on an artist, recently dead, who always remained faithful to Puglia, his home land, and who has been able to interpret the languages of his contemporaneity in a conscious and extremely original way.

If we want to follow synthetically the multiform career of Natalino Tondo, through four important moments of his creative path, we chose his art works although not exhausting the vastness and complexity of his production, but anyway satisfying a first approach to learn about his research .

The path starts with “**Tensioni strutturate**” (1967), an art work made with plastic tubes in varied sizes, taken from industrial technology. On the matter of industrial technology there was, at that time, in Italy and beyond, a strong critical and ideological debate. The plastic tubes on the canvas are abandoning the bi-dimensional structure and so, in this way, a speculation starts on the “space”, a subject that will be a constant for Natalino Tondo, even in a more mature phase of his production.

The artist makes structures that can be replicated, as true modules of the industrial technology, in alternation with geometries and chromatic surfaces, as Franco Sossi explains in his book: *Luce spazio strutture* (1967).

In this way, Tondo updates his language to the most advanced experiences of international research in art. The artist lives at the border of the contemporaneity, but he is dynamic, he travels and studies a lot, as it evidenced by the **work on paper 1969** shown at the gallery, that reveals how his approach to the structure of the shape considers different techniques and supports.

Later, beginning of the seventies, Natalino Tondo starts an anthropological and social research with the cycle of **Rilevamenti salentini**, one of these, as a significant example, is shown in the exhibition. The medium of photography allows him to identify spaces of mutations in a rural culture, tied with an ancestral force to a primitive Salento, that was beginning to look, at that time, to the modernity.

In the process of Rilevamenti salentini the artist catches the details of a particular space in Salento, isolates them from the context of landscapes and, looking at the suggestions of Land Art, focuses attention on traces, even less visible, and so defines this exploration as "objective", because of the consequence of the "knowledge" obtained through direct experience that does not exclude the recognition of "the complexity of the reality".

In the '80s, the concept of using modules to represent the not-iconic space, will find further developments in the most elaborate body of his works: **Spazio n-dimensionale**, a synthesis of his entire thought, that's why this title was chosen for this project. The art works named Spazio n-dimensionale are large canvases of rectangular shape where Tondo rediscovers the magic power of colour. Parallel bands and curved lines develop in all directions, evading the cage of the Euclidean space. The lines, therefore, totally emancipated, follow different directions and their chromatic development undergoes constant renewal, while in others it remains uniform.

Even if not present in the show, we also wish to mention *Pagine di Spazio*, works elaborated in the nineties, in which the modular structure is created by spray pigments, up to a stratification of the pattern on the surface of the canvas, so the art work approach an indefinite space, indeed "infinite," as the artist suggests.

But Tondo's path does not stop here, we just want to mention sculptures and installations, or the research on galaxies developed by the artist in the eighties and nineties until beginning of 2000 when the synthesis of form and colour reaches levels of extreme sophistication.

Afflicted by a serious illness, in the last 15 years Natalino Tondo turns more and more on himself, in a sort of *psychic silence* that leads him first to the hospital than to death, which happened last March in Lecce.

The exhibition will be open until Tuesday, July 4, at the following times: May 19 to May 27, every day from 9am to 1pm and from 2pm to 8pm. From May 28 to July 3 only by appointment.

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