

**VALENTINO VAGO
SILVIO WOLF**

“The Invisible”

Curated by Luca Pietro Nicoletti



Casa Museo Boschi Di Stefano

Via Giorgio Jan 15, Milan

22 March — 5 June, 2022

Opening

Tuesday, 22 March, 4—8 pm

Exhibition Hours

Tuesday — Sunday, 10 am—5:30 pm

Comune di Milano, in collaboration with Valentino Vago's Archive, is pleased to present the exhibition *The Invisible*, curated by Luca Pietro Nicoletti. It includes two shows with strong poetic consonance: *Valentino Vago. Figures and horizons* on the first floor and *Silvio Wolf. Before Time* on the third floor.

Comprised of over thirty-five works by two of the most representative artists of their generation, *The Invisible* traces the mutual resonance of Vago's and Wolf's research on the notion of abstraction through painting and photography.

These two paths, developed through different techniques, materials and languages, dialogue on multiple levels, between the perceptual in seeking a constant interaction with the observer to lead them beyond the visible, and the conceptual referring to a metaphysical and contemplative research on space, and the vanishing of the image in light and color.

Modern and contemporary, painting and photography meet on the threshold that connects these distinct generational and disciplinary fields, recognizing their identity and expression in an abstract vision of reality.

VALENTINO VAGO

FIGURES AND HORIZONS

This retrospective on the work of Valentino Vago (1931-2018) takes its cue from the five paintings in the Boschi Di Stefano permanent collection, retracing the evolution of his artistic career and the development of two key elements: light and color.

Twenty works, all oil on canvas, testify how the artistic vocation of one of the masters of Italian abstract painting has always been intertwined with the spiritual research that led him to create an extraordinary and unique poetic universe.

This exhibition, which takes place in the former ceramic school of Casa Boschi Di Stefano on the ground floor, begins with the academic work *Untitled*, 1953. Poised between figuration and metaphysics, the painting immediately immerses the viewer in the abstract formulations of Vago's Sixties works,

unmistakable in their sign as well as the light of uniform, intense colors and silent visibility, perfect in his desire to represent the Invisible.

The abstract expressiveness of works such as *Green Image* (1959), *Colors in the Light* and *My Summer*, both from 1960, or even *Composition* (1964) and *Oblique Composition* (1965), show how the language of Valentino Vago is eloquent in its chromatic synthesis, and how his painting is intimately sacred and, at the same time, powerful.

Among the works in the exhibition *Solar Space* (1960) stands out, and a key to the exhibition itinerary is *Black Horizon* (1965), an emblematic painting where the theme of the landscape, internalized and mental, enters Vago's painting as the effacement of any figurative reference, the start of an ascetic and visionary path that eventually lead him to wide-ranging diaphanous and rarefied paintings; this is the case of *C. 268* from 1970, today in the collection of the Museo del Novecento.

SILVIO WOLF

BEFORE TIME

The exhibition *The Invisible* establishes a mutual dialogue between the works by Valentino Vago and the *Horizons* of light by Silvio Wolf, an internationally recognized artist and one of the undisputed protagonists of contemporary research on abstract photography.

Before Time, presented on the third floor, includes fifteen works from the *Horizons* series. Three additional works by Wolf: *Memory Void*, 1978-2002, *Icon of Light 24*, 1992 and *Icon of Light 30*, 1994 are part of the *Replacements* project on the second floor, taking the place of three paintings by Valentino Vago, normally exhibited in the permanent collection. These paintings, *Two Forms*, 1960, *Composition*, 1964 and *Rectangles*, 1961 are on view in Vago's exhibition.

Silvio Wolf has always worked on photography as an object of light transfigured into an image, which led towards a radical concept of abstraction. The *Horizons* are certainly one of the most interesting results of Wolf's research on the linguistic, perceptive and cognitive potential of photography.

His careful reflection on the relationship established by the work with the surrounding space posits the viewer at the center of a sensorial and meditative experience. The works chosen for the rooms on the third floor interact with the personality of the space, expressing an idea of art that amplifies the "listening" dimension the artist offers to the beholders of his works.

The title of his exhibition, *Before Time*, underlines how the *Horizons* series are pre-photographic images created by light directly on the initial fragment of the film before it records the first image, beyond the photographer's control. These unintended exposures are writings of light, appropriations of non-optical images manifested on the photo-sensitive surface during the loading process of the camera, and before the capture of any external imagery. They are transformed by the viewer's mind in pure forms and language. Ultimately the *Horizons* are icons of light generated from the intimate relationship between light, time and matter.

According to Luca Pietro Nicoletti: *"In these works, Wolf recovers what the photographer would traditionally discard after the development of the film, attributing an aesthetic and pictorial quality to those initial fragments, similar in some cases to the effects achieved by contemporary abstract painting. Once printed on paper, these photographic fragments reveal images with strong visual impact, able to evoke spaces of immense depth"*.

As for Valentino Vago's painting, Silvio Wolf's reflection on photography places light at its core, the true protagonist of his works. The glimpses of light and color that appear in the suspended spaces of his abstract photographs, as well as in Valentino Vago's paintings, highlight how both artists aspire to an abstract rendition of the Real, leading one's gaze beyond the visible.

Their works give substance to the indefinable, showing the essence of something that exists a priori, in painting for Vago, in photography for Wolf: meditative and mental visions of the Real.

To receive high res images and press kit [click here](#)

In collaboration with



municipiotre



Touring Club Italiano

APERTI PER VOI



M77 GALLERY - Milano

GALLERIA

PHOTO & CONTEMPORARY - Torino



FONDAZIONE
BOSCHI
DI STEFANO

Press Office

De Angelis Press, Milano

t. 345.7190941 | info@deangelispress.com

Contacts:

email: c.casaboschi@comune.milano.it;

tel.: +39.0288463614

www.casamuseoboschidistefano.it

www.facebook.com/CasaBoschiDiStefano

@casaboschidistefano

Valentino Vago Achive

t. 02.29513896 | info@archiviovalentinovago.it