

GALLERIA ALESSANDRO DE MARCH

ALICE GUARESCHI QUOTED VALUES AND OUTER SPACES

21 January - 31 March 2010
opening on Thursday January the 21st at 18 pm

- *I think that, basically, it probably comes out of the same concerns: isolated incidents in space and time, for one.*
- *Isolated incidents? What do you mean exactly?*

(fragment of a conversation between Robert Barry and René Denizot, Paris 1980)

Quoted values, in other words the space between quotation marks. And Outer Spaces: cosmic spaces, or external, exterior spaces. Elsewhere. Sometimes, dictionary phraseology presents us with sudden, surprising associations. The works in this exhibition describe, without wanting to define them, these two dimensions, which we silently contend with each day: implacable infinity, the vastness of space, incalculable, superhuman time; and the everyday, contingent gesture, the constant and inevitable action of choices and gazes. Like, for example, in *Light Year Ring*. More phraseology, another *objet trouvé* from the dictionary: the word *year* links both the elusive speed of a light year, and the slow concentric growth of the rings of a tree. In Alice Guareschi's work, the content and the subject are often deliberately left out of the frame. What remains are shapes, geometry, duration, and language. Thus time can be imagined, as it composes figures and designs, similar to an accidental yet inexorable group of fragile forms; such as in the small ceramic composition entitled *I Giorni e Le Ore* ("Days and Hours"). Or time can be simply thought of, as it passes, as the alternation of light and clouds in scraps of sky on the wall. Central here is the question of viewpoint, the angle from which things are observed. The thoughts which time after time we choose to put into empty space, between quotation marks. The movement which one decides to make through the world. In its uncertainty this movement could be compared to that of someone venturing deep into the forest, among what could evoke ruins of the past, but which perhaps are none other than spaces waiting to bring to light new things, isolating them from confusion and reaffirming them. Like a tool for communicating with the outside, language. Language which, by its very nature, forces us to surrender to a distance between ourselves and things; and once again, which implies selection and choice, the relativity of sounds depending on their context, and an ever-present (not to mention interesting) possibility of misunderstanding. A printed ceramic object placed next to the wall features a small cigarette lighter (the fragment of an image stolen from Ed Ruscha, a deliberate homage to the great American artist) letting out an enormous flame. The title of this piece is the quote of a friend who in turn was quoting Heinrich Von Kleist: *The Production of Thought While Speaking*. In the belief that, precisely due to the changeable nature of words and their reverberation-filled plasticity, sometimes when speaking, when trying to shed light on ourselves and the things around us, we can grasp a thought, or reach instant, yet temporary, moments of awareness.

Alice Guareschi (Parma nel 1976) lives and works in Milano. Selected solo shows: *Bianco Giallo Rosso Nero. Un'Avventura Cromatica*, Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Torino; *A Narrative Of Researches And Discoveries Made On The Site of X*, Fondazione Merz, Torino; *Passangers To Be Seated During The Voyage*, Galleria Sonia Rosso, Torino. Selected group shows: *XV Quadriennale*, Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Roma; *Disarming Matter*, Dunkers Kulturhus, Helsingborg; *Fantasmata*, Arge/kunst, Bolzano; *The Final Cut*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris.