

Claudia Losi

Opening
Thursday 18 November
6.30 pm

Exhibition
18 Nov - 19 Feb 2011

Open
Tues – Sat, 3 - 7 pm

We are happy to announce a new exhibition by Claudia Losi. The subject of the new works is astronomy, together with observation of the landscape that surrounds us and contains us. The nucleus is provided by a large sphere of embroidered yarn that represents the moon. This will become the origin of a new work in progress that will begin during the opening, in contact with the audience.

The artistic research of Claudia Losi focuses on the relationship between human beings and nature, and on travel and exploration as opportunities to gain knowledge. Walking and experiencing places are central aspects of this process, combined with the artist's interests that range through many different disciplines, from the natural sciences to geography and cartography, literature and poetry. Through the use of embroidery and other techniques, the artist reproduces the rhythms of transformation of lichen, glaciers and geological maps, in an attempt to "sew" an ideal link between nature and human beings. A recurring feature of her work is the idea of the thread, of embroidery as a metaphor of relation; starting in 1998 Losi has also undertaken a series of collective projects connected with these practices.

Her recent projects include the **Balena Project** (2004-2010), consisting in the creation of a fin whale in fabric, of actual size, that has generated a dense network of relationships. The legendary, ancient animal becomes the symbol and vehicle of an equally mythical enterprise, a project approach with unpredictable results, aimed at an outcome that borders on the impossible; a symbol – above all – of the voyage, represented by desire, effort, utopia. After having been sewn and taken form, the whale began a long period of wandering in Italy and abroad: starting at *Viafarini* in Milan, it continued to a square in Lerici, Liguria, two museums in the cities of Guayaquil and Quito in Ecuador, the cloister beside the Marino Marini Museum in Florence, and finally the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham. To conclude the project, Claudia Losi decided to enact a rite of passage and transformation: *Les Funerailles de la Baleine* took place during a 24-hour performance, on 16-17 October 2010, in an old textile mill near Biella, with the participation of the fashion designer Antonio Marras and the singer-songwriter Vinicio Capossela, who paced the event with his original compositions. Using the fabric that was the skin of the whale, Marras has created several jackets that will be on display, starting in December 2010, at the Royal Academy in London, in the exhibition *Aware - Art Fashion Identity* curated by Lucy Horta and Gaby Scardi. Other phases of the project are planned for 2011, showing the jackets and the objects that have emerged from this performance, as well as a public showing of the video made for the occasion.

Claudia Losi was born in Piacenza in 1971, where she lives and works. Her work can now be seen at the MAXXI, the National Museum of the Art of the XXI Century in Rome, at MAGASIN Centre National d'Art Contemporain in Grenoble, in *Sindrome Italiana*, and at Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro in Milan, in the group show *Italian Sculpture of the XXI Century*. In 2009 she was commissioned to make the site-specific project *Strip Maps. Sguardo ed Esperienza* at the UniCredit Banca office in Milan; she participated in the project *Arte Pollino* and the group show *Diritto Rovescio* at the Milan Triennial. In 2008 solo shows were held of her work at the Marino Marini Museum of Florence and the Stenersen Museum of Oslo; in 2007 at the Ikon Gallery of Birmingham and, together with Hamish Fulton, at Marrana Arte Ambientale in Monte Marcello, near La Spezia; in 2004 at Spazio Aperto of the Galleria d'Arte Moderna of Bologna.