

Arthur Duff

Bodies without points of view

Curated by Daniele Capra



**Complesso dell'Ospedaletto, Sardi's Staircase
Venice, from 11 May to 24 November 2019**

Vernissage by invitation only: Wednesday, 8 May, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Press Preview + tour: Tuesday, 7 May, 4:00 - 8:00 pm

Press Preview: 8 May, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm / 9 and 10 May, 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

In **Venice, from 11 May until 24 November 2019**, **Marignana Arte** presents the installation "**Bodies without points of view**" by **Arthur Duff** in the monumental space of **Sardi's Staircase** at the **Complesso dell'Ospedaletto**.

Curated by Daniele Capra, the exhibition occurs with the group show *Reagents* in the adjacent rooms of the Pharmacy, which is supported by the gallery.

In 1666, the architect Giuseppe Sardi completed the stairs of the Ospedaletto, with the intention of connecting the various floors in the building, illogically organised at the time. Choosing to adopt and reconsider the spiral type, he added baroque flair in an elliptical form. The steps were positioned to directly join the marble into the side walls, by utilising a simple but particularly charming solution, which allows a gradually descending chiaroscuro effect with a geometric rhythm.

Inspired by the space, Arthur Duff developed an essential and incisive site-specific installation that combines light and sculpture, drawing visitors' attention to the verticality of the staircase. In fact, the artist has identified in the space a forceful line, that gathers and guides the observer gaze from the top to the ground floor, following the natural gravity. However, the light and words of "*Bodies without points of view*" are also a reference to treatments that were given here to those in need: built in the second half of the 16th century, originally the Ospedaletto's primary mission was to take care of the sick and later of the orphans too. Duff's artwork is an intimate connection with those who received the needed attention. Meanwhile, in a metaphysical and timeless sense, it is a mention to the body and to its constant dissolving / manifesting in the eyes of others.

The artistic practice of **Arthur Duff** (Wiesbaden, Germany, 1973), focusses on sculpture and installation, and it is characterised by a remarkable freedom, both in relation to the utilized materials, and the search for a dialogue within the context. Often his work originates from an intimate connection which the artist expresses in the space, using the written word.

Amongst his most recent urban works: "*Learning how to see in the dark*" at Castello Aragonese in Taranto, "*Precious Objects - Extraordinary Individuals*" at Palazzo Malipiero Barnabò in Venice, "*Spin Series*" at Complesso Monumentale Santo Spirito in Sassia in Rome, "*Borrowing You*" in Castelfranco Veneto and "*Transparency - Arthur Duff, Jenny Holzer, Julian Opie, Jaume Plensa, Stephan Reusse, Ulla Rauter, Public Art in Prague*" on the occasion of the Czech Republic European Presidency in 2009. In 2011 his project "*Rope*" received the Prize 2% of MACRO Museum in Rome. Recently his works have been exhibited in several group shows: "*Proportio*" at Palazzo Fortuny in Venice, "*La Grande Magia*" at MAMbo in Bologna, "*Temi & Variazioni, Scrittura e Spazio*" at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, "*La parola nell'arte. Ricerche d'avanguardia nel '900*" at Mart in Rovereto, "*Il Palazzo delle Libertà*" at the Centro d'Arte Contemporanea Le Papesse in Siena and the section "*Italian Feeling*" of the XIV Quadriennale at Galleria Nazionale D'Arte Moderna in Rome. He is a professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Perugia. He lives and works in Vicenza.

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Assistant curator Ludovica Matarozzo

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Opening times: from Tuesday to Sunday, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm; closed on Mondays

Free admission

Castello 6691

Access from Calle Torelli detta de la Cavallerizza or from Barbaria de le Tole

Vaporetto stop: Ospedale - Lines 4.1 / 4.2 / 5.1 / 5.2

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#bodieswithoutpointsofview

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