

RED STAMP ART GALLERY - AMSTERDAM

CHRISTIAN ZANOTTO

HOLOTHECA "THE HAT IS WEARING ME" - 2014

The holotheca "The Hat Is Wearing Me" stages once again a refined and conceptual vision related to the different levels of reality and its ineffable nature, with which the viewer is confronted on a personal and psychological level.

Christian Zanotto's holographic thecas always somehow investigate and incorporate this issue, both in a direct, represented manner that in a speculative and thoughtful way.

Inside the virtual space of the theca we see the appearance of the clear image of a head, up to the level of the neck; it rotates, mutates and rhythmically pulses, while variations of transparency show its interior: the skull, which in turn contains the brain.

The image holds a strong hypnotic/aesthetic charm in virtue of the bright, golden and variant light that emanates and for the bizarre element that concludes the composition: an elegant metal structure, sort of enigmatic cage which encloses and intersects the head, hence the title "The Hat Is Wearing Me".

The brain mass is at the center/core of the representation, complemented by a sort of eyewear/prosthesis suitable to observe: glasses come back often in the figures created by Zanotto, like an essential reference to the gaze, to the fire of eyesight and to the putting into perspective the "outside" through the eyes.

The theme of elements which contain other elements is here highlighted and emphasizes the network of relationships between them; the mode of representation subtly underlines the relation of diversity / affinity between artificiality and naturalness; a bit like in Hoffmann's tale "The Sandman", eyes and eyeglasses, natural and artificial, human and devilish, seem to interlace as belonging at heart to an only species.

Another topic recognizable in the work "The Hat Is Wearing Me" is linked to the various theories and researches about the relationship between reality and its perception, which investigate the complex mechanisms through which man interacts with the outside world and takes inner consciousness of it: the receipt of data through the senses, the sensations transmitted to the brain, that processes them to build an internal representation; these mechanisms are far from being definitely understood and leave open the question of a not linear and passive perception of the world, but of an actively changing image of it built by the brain itself through sophisticated dynamics and adaptations.

For the presentation of the holotheca "The hat is wearing me" at Artefiera Bologna 2014 Christian Zanotto conceived a specific installational choice : the vision of the holographic sculpture above described has been further visually and conceptually articulated by means of a video wall projection of a twin image of the head, rotating in the opposite direction, slightly deformed due to the projection angle.

When the two faces look at each other their sight observes a mirrored self, when the two heads are nape against nape a kind of Janus manifests, emblematic figure of the double polarity inherent in all things in inseparable unit.

The stimuli provoked by this artwork arise matters which place us conceptually in a gallery of mirrors and lead to enigmatic, metaphysical and paradoxical questions about the origin of the universe and of all things, in an endless chain of queries.

Does the depicted metal structure, in the idea to which the work refers, exist prior or subsequent to the head? Is the person to wear the hat or is the hat to wear the person ? Does man control his creations/projections/interpretations of the world or do they control and influence him? And so on...Comprehensive questions which, starting from the macrocosmic scale of the queries on the origins and on the true nature of existence, reach the microcosm of everyday experiences, to meditate about the human intelligence and man as the almost completely unaware maker, therefore still unable to manage his creative nature, that he has instead to suffer and by which is so dichotomously affected. *Sonia Arata, July 2014*

<http://www.christianzanotto.com/THE%20HAT%20IS%20WEARING%20ME%20-%20FW%20-%20SLIDE/index.html>