



Istituto Svizzero di Roma
Sede di Venezia
Campo S. Agnese - Dorsoduro 810
I-30123 Venezia
t +39 041 241 18 10
f +39 041 244 38 63
venezia@istitutosvizzero.it
www.istitutosvizzero.it

Press Release

Johanna Grawunder

Zattere

Light installation

Opening:
Thursday, January 28, 2010, 6.30 p.m.

Location:
ISR – Venice branch
Campo S. Agnese – Dorsoduro 810
Tel. +39 041 2411810 - arte@istitutosvizzero.it

The event accompanies Pamela Rosenkranz's exhibition "Our Sun", extended until March 6, 2010 and can be seen at the following times:

Mon - Fri from 11 am to 1 pm and from 3 to 6 pm / Sat from 2 to 6 pm – closed Sundays and bank holidays – free entrance

"Zattere" is the title of the light installation designed by Johanna Grawunder, for the entrance hall of the Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi, the fifteenth century building where the Venice branch of the Istituto Svizzero di Roma is situated. The installation consists of a series of five wooden lamps arranged on a single wall. Each lamp is made out of pine plywood (h 160 x 80 cm) cut in different ways and glued together to form an open "V" shape and fluorescent lamps attached to the wall.

In Johanna Grawunder's work on light, the "light panel" specifically is a recurring theme. Using wood, metal, plexiglass or applying color directly on the wall, the artist experimented above all on the relationship between object-lamp and the architecture that accommodates it. Characteristics that are found in this work, too.

This is how Grawunder talks about the origin of this special project dedicated to Venice:

"These lamps recall a little the foot bridges that are set up during the high water season – but I do not know if this is a positive image for the Venetians. Some years ago my mother had fallen in the water while she was walking on the foot bridge in Piazza San Marco when an elegant gentleman, behind us, said in a low voice: 'a ballerina!'. This scene has always made me laugh a lot. Not that the lamps are inspired by this story, but perhaps a little. Venice is very refined. On the other hand, as you know, it is deteriorating. Plywood is a rough material, used in building, suitable for repairs. Yet it is wood, a traditional material, nowadays becoming more and more precious".

Johanna Grawunder _ Biography

Johanna Grawunder (San Diego, 1961) is a designer and architect based in Milan and San Francisco. Her work spans a broad range of projects and scales, from architecture and interiors, to limited edition furniture and lights for various galleries in Europe and the USA. She also designs products for select companies including Flos, Boffi, B&B, and Salviati among others. She worked with Sottsass Associati from 1985 to 2001, becoming a partner in 1989. At the Sottsass Studio she was involved primarily with architecture and interiors, co-designing with Ettore Sottsass, many of the firm's most prestigious projects. In 2001 she left Sottsass Associati and opened her own studio in San Francisco and Milan. Graduating in 1984 from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo with a Bachelor of Architecture degree, she completed her final year of studies in Florence, Italy and in 1985 moved to Milan.

Enti Finanziatori
Fondazione svizzera per la cultura Pro Helvetia
Segreteria di Stato per l'educazione e la ricerca
Ufficio federale della cultura
Ufficio federale delle costruzioni e della logistica

Partner
BSI
Canton Ticino
Città di Lugano
Università della Svizzera italiana