

BLIND VISION

by Annalaura di Luggo

curated by Raisa Clavijo

*“...the results of **Blind Vision** shouldn't be perceived only as 'works of art,' as they lead us to a sublime experience of personal growth based on human interaction.”*

Raisa Clavijo

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Annalaura di Luggo Artist



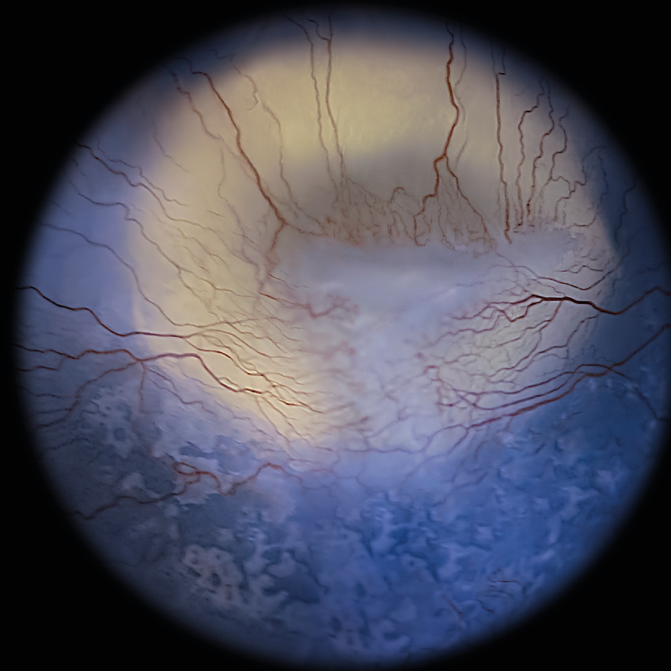
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**11th session of the Conference of Parties
to the CRPD, 11 to 15 June 2018**



For many years **Annalaura di Luggo** focused her artistic research on rediscovering and emphasizing the uniqueness of each human being using social research techniques and the macrophotography of the iris, as the symbol of identity, in her iconography.

But Annalaura's work does not stop with the macrophotography of the iris, as the main theme of the project **Occh-IO/Eye-I** (which she developed in different countries and venues around the world, having the opportunity to make contact with individuals from all social levels, races and cultures) is the human perception that is as unique to each individual, as is the iris, that the artist captures with a camera she patented, which was manufactured utilizing the technical resources of ophthalmologic science.

As part of her creative process, the artist develops an intimate and empathy conversation with each portrait subject in order to explore their inner universe: the works include, preserving them, the traces of the characters personality, their thoughts and their emotions.

Blind Vision arises from the artist's interest in exploring the universe of people who perceive reality with senses other than sight in order to promote their social and cultural integration.

The project began in November 2016 when the artist met with a group of 20 totally or partially blind people of different ages professions and educational backgrounds from UICI (Italian Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired) and the Istituto Paolo Colosimo of Napoli. She interacted with each one of them, photographing their irises and inviting them to share their experiences of living with one less sense. The experience of **Blind Vision** developed into a multimedia installation which assembles a collection of stories, feelings and reflections about how society perceives people who have difficulty seeing.

A dark space recreates a suggestive atmosphere that evokes the world of those who are deprived of their sight. The photograph of the iris of each participant is displayed in a light box equipped with a sound mechanism: the eyes alternately light up and the original voices of these people reveal fragments of their personal stories to the spectator.

Blind Vision received support from Regione Campania, Comune di Napoli, UICI onlus (Sezione Napoli), Associazione Teatro Colosimo and patronage of Museo Madre of Napoli.

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Blind Vision includes:

- The multimedia installation **Blind Vision** by **Annalaura di Luggo** (sound design **Paky Di Maio**, curated by **Raisa Clavijo**).
- **“Essenza”**, a tactile, three-dimensional artwork created by **Annalaura di Luggo** to be perceived by the blind.
- The photography exhibition **“A Journey of Light”**, which documents the artist's creative process (scene photos by **Sergio Siano**, curated by **Raisa Clavijo**).
- The documentary **Blind Vision** directed by **Nanni Zedda**, subtitled in English.
- The book **Blind Vision**, which describes the journey of **Annalaura di Luggo** and the people she worked with. (Edited by **Raisa Clavijo**. Italian and English languages).

Annalaura di Luggo (1970) was born in Napoli, Italy, where she lives and works. She has created permanent installations for the public sector and private collections. Her artworks are exhibited in Italy and in galleries in Miami, New York, San Paolo, Paris and Istanbul and in many museums including Miace Museum, Colosimo Museum permanent exhibit, Nisida prison museum permanent exhibit.

Over the years, the artist has exhibited in many solo shows and art fairs all over the world. She created permanent installations with a powerful social and civic impact, such as:

Never Give Up, a project developed together with the inmates of the juvenile detention centre at Nisida off the coast of Napoli. It is a permanent installation created inside an isolation cell where the eyes of the prisoners and the sentences written on the walls teach us the true value of freedom.

Human Rights Vision, a work auctioned at Palazzo Vecchio-Florence, to support the aims of the Robert Kennedy Human Rights Foundation. Here the function of the artist's eyes is to furnish an alternative reading of the world: their purpose is “to elevate the world's gaze and foster a spirit of brotherhood”.

Blind Vision ignites our awareness of the discovery of a new world and of unexpected stimuli to perceive reality, with alternative senses to sight. The multimedia installation inaugurated in May 2017 at the Istituto Colosimo in Napoli, then exposed in **Basel Art Fair**, in **New York**, **Cortina d'Ampezzo** and Rome, revived again in Napoli at Christmas 2017 in a special edition in a black dome in Piazza dei Martiri counting **over 15,000 visitors** in one month and **45% of tourists selected it as the most interesting exhibition present in Napoli**.