

Blind Vision: Annalaura di Luggo

Curated by Raisa Clavijo

Istituto Paolo Colosimo, Naples, Italy

Vernissage: April 27, 17:00 pm

May 1 – 31, 2017

Naples, Italy, April 18th, 2017 - The Istituto Statale D'Istruzione Superiore Paolo Colosimo, an educational center for blind and visually impaired people in Naples, Italy, will debut the photo-performative project ***Blind Vision*** by artist Annalaura di Luggo on Thursday, April 27, at 5 p.m. The project has been curated by **Raisa Clavijo** and is part of the **Maggio dei Monumenti di Napoli 2017** official program.

The artist worked with 20 people from the Associazione Teatro Colosimo and the Italian Union of Blind and Partially Sighted People (UICI) in Naples to explore, through physical and tactile approaches, the inner universe of individuals who use an alternative way to perceive the world. These interactions inspired the documentary ***Blind Vision***, directed by Nanni Zedda.

The work of Annalaura di Luggo is based on recognizing the value of the human being as “unique and unrepeatable,” just as each of us perceives the world in our own unique way. Accordingly, she chooses the eye’s iris as the protagonist of her photographs, as the iris is different in each individual. 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, 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.

Over the years it has taken her to develop ***Occh-IO/Eye-I***, Annalaura di Luggo di Luggo has had the opportunity to make contact with individuals from all social levels, races and cultures, including businesspeople, movie and television stars, intellectuals, students, authors, millionaires, the homeless, housewives, artists, scientists, victims of human trafficking, immigrants, inmates and the differently abled.

“***Blind Vision*** is an important step in my research, because I chose to put myself in the shoes of visually impaired people to try to understand what it means to have the darkness ahead,” she says. “I wanted this project to encourage cultural and social integration of blind and visually impaired people and propose a supportive vision. Not being able to share a gaze, I opted for physical contact, and hand in hand they led me on an exciting journey, allowing me to discover alternative ways of perceiving the world. The artworks I created, as a result of this experience, must be perceived through a sensorial approach, by using touch and hearing. I wanted to reproduce the learning process I experienced along this project.”

The experience of **Blind Vision** developed into a multimedia installation, the exhibition “A Journey of Light” and the sculpture *Essence*, conceived to be perceived by the visually impaired.

These interactions have also built a rich archive of life stories, feelings and reflections on how society perceives the visually impaired. They have been gathered together in the multimedia installation **Blind Vision**, which introduces viewers to the experience of not seeing. One descends down a ramp to a room whose architecture is reminiscent of a dark grotto in which 20 light boxes have been placed. Each of them reproduces the form of the iris of each one of the project’s protagonists and is outfitted with computerized chips for light and sound, which are activated via a timer. Following a script carefully created by the artist and sound designer Paky Di Maio, each light box lights up for a few moments and narrates in the voice of the given protagonist a fragment of a life story, the experience of confronting a limitation that far from defeating that individual has led to the discovery of a rich potential for strength and hope. The background sound created by Di Maio was based on the ambient sound of the daily operations of the Istituto Colosimo.

“I chose to materialize the experience of **Blind Vision** in 20 light boxes, one for each participant, to flood the spectator in a new light, that same light that I found with great astonishment in the eyes and souls of blind people I met,” Annalaura says. “Light is the ‘common thread’ that has accompanied my creative process. It is this light that I hope will slowly ‘light up’ people’s minds to a new awareness of a world that is no longer dark. Everything starts from the darkness. And in the end, everything becomes clear and crisp.”

A dark room next to the multimedia installation displays the sculpture **Essenza**, created by Annalaura to be perceived by the visually impaired. The sculpture was modeled after one of the eyes she photographed that is missing a pupil. The artist devises a semantic game between the Italian word “*essenza*” (“essence”) and a very similar-sounding phrase with an opposite meaning, “*e senza*” (“without”).

A third project that arose as a result of the magic of these encounters is the exhibition “**A Journey of Light.**” It contains a collection of photos taken by the Neapolitan photographer **Sergio Siano** of the moments of interaction between the artist and each of the project participants. This selection of photos assembles scenes in which project participants and the artist dance, embrace, hold hands and share a caress while they teach Annalaura how to give a massage and read in Braille.

“Many of the scene photos are images of hands. They transmit the heterogeneity of the people I met, from the professional in a suit to the girl with glamorous nail polish to the rapper with the rings. Hands are the focal point of this exhibition because the tactile approach was precisely a strategic channel to establish empathy with the visually impaired people I met,” the artist explains.

“Through ***Blind Vision***, Annalaura di Luggo continues her artistic research into exploring the foundations of human thought and behavior in contemporary society,” curator Raisa Clavijo said. “***Blind Vision*** is a project of live art in which the artworks are not only materialized in videos, sculptures and photographs. The main part is the interaction of the artist with the participants and the traces of life that have remained from those encounters, which will survive into the future. It is an interaction that does not end the moment the performance ends, but instead remains recorded, immortalized to be perceived by untold numbers of viewers. Its effects extend in time and continue not only reproducing themselves, but also changing, mutating and adapting themselves as long as the participants remain alive.”

Blind Vision received the support of **Regione Campania, Comune di Napoli e Unione Italiana Ciechi onlus (Sezione Napoli)** and **Matronato della Fondazione Donnaregina per le arti contemporanee di Napoli**. For further information, visit www.annalauradiluggo.it.

The project includes:

- The multimedia installation ***Blind Vision*** by **Annalaura di Luggo** (sound design **Paky Di Maio**, curated by **Raisa Clavijo**)
- ***Essence***, a tactile, three-dimensional artwork created by **Annalaura di Luggo** to be perceived by blind and visually impaired people
- The photography exhibition **A Journey of Light**, which documents the artist's creative process (photos by **Sergio Siano**, curated by **Raisa Clavijo**)
- The documentary ***Blind Vision*** directed by **Nanni Zedda**, subtitled in English. It includes a piano performance by **Ivan Dalia** (watch the teaser at <https://youtu.be/ZIXcgYwm6YI>). Screenings will take place at the baroque theatre of Istituto Colosimo.
- The book ***Blind Vision***, which describes the journey of **Annalaura di Luggo** and the people she worked with. A section is focused on the history of the Istituto Colosimo from 1916 to today. (Edited by **Raisa Clavijo**. Italian and English languages. It is also available as an audio book.)
- ***Blind Vision*** educational materials

Program

- **Press Preview**: Wednesday, April 26, 11 a.m. **Istituto Colosimo**, Via Santa Teresa degli Scalzi 36, Napoli. Guided tours of ***Blind Vision*** by the students of the Istituto Colosimo and screening of the eponymous documentary. Journalists are invited to a **Blind Cocktail** (cocktail in total darkness) served by the students of the Istituto Colosimo.

- **Vernissage:** Thursday, April 27, from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Istituto Colosimo, Via Santa Teresa degli Scalzi 36, Napoli. By invitation only. Free admission. Guided tours. Each tour includes a visit to the multimedia installation ***Blind Vision***, led by the students of Istituto Colosimo, and a screening of the eponymous documentary.
Tour hours: 17:30 / 18:15 / 19:00 / 19:45 / 20:30 / 21:15. Reservations required.
- **Blind Dinner:** April 28, 8 p.m. Istituto Colosimo, Via Santa Teresa degli Scalzi 36, Napoli. For vernissage guests (maximum 60 people). Dinner will be served by the students of the Istituto Colosimo, with proceeds going to support the activities of the Associazione Teatro Colosimo. Reservations required. Vernissage and Blind Dinner reservations must be made before April 18 through the registration form at www.annalauradiluggo.com, adiluggoart@gmail.com or + 39 342 0848384.
- **Exhibition open to the public:** Entire month of May. Istituto Colosimo, Via Santa Teresa degli Scalzi 36, Napoli. Admission by donation. All proceeds will be used to support the Associazione Teatro Colosimo. Each tour includes a visit to ***Blind Vision***, led by the students of Istituto Colosimo, and a screening of the eponymous documentary.
Tours are available Monday to Friday mornings for booked groups and schools, as well as at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., as well as at 12 p.m., 4 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.; and Sunday at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon. Reservations required.

A program of **Blind Dinners** is scheduled during the month of May. The meals will be served by the students of Istituto Colosimo, and the revenues will support the Associazione Teatro Colosimo. Hours: Friday evenings in May and varied for special programs; capacity: 30 to 50 people; reservations accepted until seven days before the exhibition. For reservations, email adiluggoart@gmail.com or call 342 0848384.

Press contacts:

Guido Spainì:

Raisa Clavijo: raisaclavijo@artpulsemagazine.com

www.annalauradiluggo.com - Facebook: Annalaura di Luggo Art –

Instagram: [annalauradiluggo_artist](https://www.instagram.com/annalauradiluggo_artist) - Twitter: [@annadiluggoart](https://twitter.com/annadiluggoart)

adiluggoart@gmail.com – phone: 342 0848384

Biography

Annalaura di Luggo (1970) was born in Naples, Italy, where she lives and works. Her artworks are exhibited in Italy and in galleries in Miami, New York, Paris and São Paulo.

Solo Shows

“Blind Vision,” multimedia project curated by Raisa Clavijo, documentary directed by Nanni Zedda. Istituto Paolo Colosimo per ciechi e ipovedenti, Naples, Italy.

“Annalaura di Luggo: Recent Works.” Fabrique du Cinema, Ex Dogana, Roma, Italy

Presentation organized in collaboration with writer Kerry Kennedy, show and shooting. New York, USA

“MOVision” Gala Cinema Fiction. Castello Medioevale di Castellammare, Italy

“Sea Visions, 7 punti di vista.” 56th International Boat Show, Genoa, Italy

“Stimuli to Change.” Heidelberg University Museum, Germany

“Never Give Up. The Donation,” curated by Guido Cabib, permanent exhibition. Nisida Juvenile Detention Center, Naples, Italy

“Occh-IO/Eye-I,” curated by Guido Cabib. Monte-Carlo Salle des Etoiles. Principality of Monaco

“Occh-IO/Eye-I,” show and shooting. White Dot Gallery, Miami, USA

“Occh-IO/Eye-I,” show and shooting. Monte Paschi di Siena, Milan, Italy

“Occh-IO Mirror of the Soul, A Journey between Science and Faith,” vernissage and convention. Le Stelline Foundation, Milan, Italy

“Occh-IO/Eye-I,” curated by Guido Cabib. The Format Gallery, Milan, Italy

“Never Give Up,” Special Project, curated by Guido Cabib. The Others Fair. Turin, Italy

Group Shows

Scope Art Fair, New York, USA, curated by Naif International Gallery

Scope Art Fair. Miami Art Basel Week, curated by Naif International Gallery

“Journeys”, curated by Raisa Clavijo. **Art Boca Raton,** Florida, USA

“Questa casa non è un albergo”, curated by Giuseppe Capparelli. Reggio Calabria, Italy