**Blind Vision: Annalaura di Luggo**

Curated by Raisa Clavijo

**Special edition: Naples, Italy, Piazza dei Martiri**

**December 7th, 2017**

Piazza dei Martiri will debut the special edition of ***Blind Vision*** by artist Annalaura di Luggo on, **December 7th, 201** at 5 p.m. The project has been curated by **Raisa Clavijo** and was 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 which will be displayed in the center of the square inside a black dome.

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 enters in the black dome in which 15 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 the 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.”

“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 in a special edition includes:

* The multimedia installation ***Blind Vision*** by **Annalaura di Luggo** (sound design **Paky Di Maio**, 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 with whom she worked. A section is focused on the history of the Institute Colosimo from 1916 to today. (Edited by **Raisa Clavijo**. Italian and English languages. It is also available as an audio book.)

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**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**

Naples, Italy: “**Blind Vision**,” multimedia project curated by Raisa Clavijo, documentary directed by Nanni Zedda. Istituto

Paolo Colosimo per ciechi e ipovedenti di Napoli.

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

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

Castellammare di Stabia, Italy: **“MOVIsion”** Gala Cinema Fiction. Castello Medioevale di Castellammare

Genoa, Italy: “**Sea Visions, 7 viewpoints**”. 56th Genoa International Boat Show.

Heidelberg, Germany: “**Stimuli to Change**” Heidelberg University Museum.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**GROUP SHOWS**

Basel, Swisse, **Scope Art Fair**, curated by Mark Hachem Gallery Paris & Saphira and Ventura Gallery New York

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

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

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

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