



Miradolo Castle (TO)
IRMA BLANK
Between Sign and Silence
14th October – 26th November 2023

The exhibition “Irma Blank. Between Sign and Silence”, scheduled at **Miradolo Castle from the 14th of October to the 26th of November 2023**, is dedicated to the **long-forgotten artist who died a few months ago and who transformed painting into a sign**. The exhibition project is organized around three themes which converse with each other: the works, which authentically trace the declinations of the sign, the artist's books and photographic and video documentation.

The intention of the exhibition is to create a dialogue with the historic rooms in Miradolo Castle in order to create **an ideal counterpoint between the sign and time of the works and the history and architecture of the spaces used**. Irma Blank's writing is like narration and time, a sign like silence and breathing, which can be read as universal.

The exhibition also includes **a dedicated sound installation**, curated by Avant-dernière pensée, and **the educational project From One Meter Down**, with games and insights distributed throughout the exhibition.

After fifteen years of activity, the “Irma Blank Between Sign and Silence” exhibition sees **the Cosso Foundation inaugurate *atempo*** which is a new format in some rooms of Miradolo Castle in which visitors can see, for a short period of time, small but significant tributes to artists or moments in the history of art which, due to their peculiarities, research or poetics, are linked to the identity of the place and its different souls.

atempo intends to investigate the possibilities of observing and reading a work not only as a visual object which converses with space, but also as **a tool for discovering and reflecting on one's own time** and, also on the personal and private time of those who relate to the work itself.

In music, a tempo is an indication that during a composition, a performer returns to regular movement after a time variation; a tempo suggests the temporality of an event, the rapid approach of its conclusion and, at the same time, the suspension of time itself.



BIOGRAPHY

Irma Blank (Celle, 1934 – Milan, 2023) was born in northern Germany where she lived until 1955, when she moved to Sicily with her Italian husband. This experience of uprooting is the basis of her work. She discovered that “there is no right word” and she began work on her first abstract series *Eigenschriften* (1968-1973), which was similar to unwritten writings. In 1973 she moved to Milan where she became an art teacher at the local art school. This shift determined her transition to the *Transcriptions* series (1973-1979), initiating a cyclical work process that responds to inner explorations and external events. In these years she began to participate in personal and group exhibitions in Italy and Germany and, as a prolific writer, published her texts in books and magazines. She was also involved in avant-garde Italian poetry groups, such as the experimental space Mercato del Sale founded in Milan by Ugo Carrega. After participating in Documenta 6 in 1977, she became part of a more international network. In 1977 she also made the first sound recording of her drawing and carried out her first works in a public space, illegally applying her *Transcriptions* sheets on the walls of the Milan subway. A year after her husband's death in 1983, Irma decided to spend part of the year in Düsseldorf where she had a studio until 1993 and where she re(discovered) the blue sky of her native land which can be found in her subsequent works *Radical Writings* (1983-1996). At the end of the nineties, she returned definitively to Milan where she continued to work in a disciplined and ascetic way, producing her last series of works, the simultaneous *Hyper-Text* (1998-2002), *Avant-testo* (1998-2006) and *Global Writings* (2000-2016). After a health problem in 2016 that immobilized the right side of her body, Irma had to learn to draw with her left hand and this led her to work on the series *Gehen, Second Life* (started in 2017). “Gehen” is German for “to move forward”.

INFORMATION

Miradolo Castle, via Cardonata 2, San Secondo di Pinerolo (TO)

14 October – 26 November 2023

Irma Blank. Between Sign and Silence

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: 10am/6.30pm

Tickets: 15 euros full price, 12 euros reduced price (for groups, over 65s, conventions), 10 euros reduced price for 15-26 year olds, 8 euros reduced for 6-14 year olds, free (for 0-5 year olds, for Museum subscribers, Torino+Piemonte Cardholders, Cultural Passport holders, disabled people and their chaperones), 5 euros for Carta Giovani Città di Pinerolo holders, 4 euros reduced price for schools. Audio guide 6 euros, From One Meter Down is included in the ticket for children up to 14 years of age



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