

RECLAIMING REALMS / Stefania Migliorati

OPENING RECEPTION:

SATURDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2022 - 6PM 9PM

The investigation of public space as an indicator of the times in which we live, the ethical responsibility of human choice in sociopolitical and ecological terms, the exploration of the behavior of other species and their interaction with the sphere of human beings are the topics that are at the heart of Migliorati's multidisciplinary research.

"Based on a perception of negotiable and relational reality, I am interested in the idea of constant transformation and infiltration, understood as the quality of being able to be filtered by profoundly changing experiences, both sociopolitical as well as personal (...)"

The artist's practice is based primarily on multimedia sculpture, installation and photography.

ON VIEW: 26 NOVEMBER 2022 - 14 APRIL 2023

VBM GALLERY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF ITS NEW SPACE AND THE INAUGURATION OF ITS PROGRAMMING WITH RECLAIMING REALMS AN EXHIBITION BY STEFANIA MIGLIORATI.

Anthropocentrism, taken from the Ancient Greek words for "human being" and "center", is the basic belief embedded in many Western religions and philosophies that considers the human being as the central and most significant entity in the world.

The mentality of modern human beings is characterized by an innate psychological inclination to think anthropocentrically; similarly, the spheres of objectivity, science and technology advance with the confident presumption of shaping a world of human beings for human beings.

By identifying as an "entity with thought and language", the human being establishes its unchallenged supremacy over a mute and helpless nature, which is merely subject to rational laws it has no power to affect.

Over the course of a relatively short period of time, the original biological community has been drastically reduced and trivialized, while the advance of urbanization continues to radically alter the surface structure of the Earth. Every living thing that humans do not tend to recognize as "their neighbor" is either confined to domesticated spaces, hunting, fishing and breeding grounds or genetically modified for their own needs.

The current state of technology also makes it possible, through processes of biological resurrection and backward reproduction, to bring back to life and reintroduce individuals of species now extinct, making the boundary between what belongs to humans and what belongs to nature increasingly blurred.

What would happen if nature regained its privilege of narration?

What if animals reclaimed their own realms?

The resilience of ecosystems and animal biocoenoses in the absence of human beings are the starting point of Stefania Migliorati's research. Beginning from an objective and scientific analysis of the human era and its impact on the environment, the artist gives life to a personal "non-anthropocentric bestiary" where existing, extinct, de-extinct, hybrid and imaginary animals in constant evolution and metamorphosis populate a utopian planet in a non-catastrophic future.

Reclaiming Realms are endless post-Anthropocene possibilities of credible and verisimilar transformations: while hybrid animals that no longer follow any evolutionary law reclaim their spaces and redefine the landscape by creating interactions never seen before, wildlife, deprived of its territory and trophic resources, crosses the "border" of the city and reconquers urban spaces. The ancient natural habitats now replaced and fragmented by human activity are thus transformed into opportunities to exploit new resources and new environmental conditions where the animal can respond exclusively to its own logic of opportunism.

In *Reclaiming Realms*, human beings are wholly irrelevant to the narrative; their presence does not determine, obstruct, facilitate or even preserve a nature that now independently follows its own evolutionary path. In comparison to this, the modern human being is simply an "unfinished animal" that, in order to adapt to the environment, requires technology, humanity's essential tool for facilitating vital relationships and compensating for biological deficiencies.

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NOTES TO EDITOR

VBM Gallery combines a focus on contemporary fine art for raising the awareness of environmental issues with a commitment to permanently reducing its carbon footprint.

The gallery primarily presents artists whose work examines the changes that have resulted from the impact of the so-called Anthropocene, the human epoch, upon the environment. The exhibitions are supplemented by workshops, conferences, readings, publications and additional events that further explore the intersection of art and climate change.

GALLERY INFORMATION

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