

SIMONA BARBERA

These Stones Will not Dance or Clap Hands at the Solstice

DECEMBER 11, 2009 - FEBRUARY 13, 2010
OPENING THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER, H 18.00 21.00

FEDERICA SCHIAVO GALLERY
PIAZZA MONTEVECCHIO 16 ROMA

Federica Schiavo Gallery is pleased to announce the first solo exhibition of the Italian visual artist and musician, **Simona Barbera** curated in collaboration with Riccardo Conti.

Her project titled *These Stones Will not Dance or Clap Hands at the Solstice* is the first exhibition created by the artist for a private gallery space.

The artistic research of Simona Barbera is based on the textured quality of both artificial and natural sounds, as well as the use of her own voice. These elements are fused and organised within the creation of ambient soundscapes, following on in the musical tradition of the *noise* genre, which aims to evoke an atmosphere capable of opening doors to a suspended world, which mixes magical and dreamlike elements with fragments of reality and natural subjects taken from the mineral, vegetal and animal kingdoms.

For the exhibition, Simona Barbera has realised *wall painting* by dripping black paint over the surface of the walls: areas threatened by shadows, which transform the gallery into a place of dark connotations, fairy tales, but also at times meditation and silence.

In addition to wall painting, a series of charcoal and mixed media drawings will be presented along the walls which, through their chosen signs and materials, show figures hovering in abstraction, subjects which are seemingly deposited on paper as wild idols or glimpses of a primordial nature.

To complete the visual and aural journey, the spectator can watch a series of landscapes, created through a digital reworking which translates the soundtracks of the various gallery spaces into remote images (achieved by the artist with the collaboration of graphic studio Liligutt). Within these views, all the elements that constitute the audio and spatial narrative can be found: air, earth, water and fire are transformed here into deformed and remote landscapes that appear as overlapping worlds or like mirages in which light plays the same importance as darkness.

Born in 1971, she works between Oslo and her hometown of Genova. After having studied classical piano and composing, she attended the Academia of Belle Arti in Milan. In 2007 she graduated with a Masters Degree from the National Academy of Art in Oslo, and from there she returned to Genova to continue her studies in electronic music at the Conservatorio Niccolò Paganini. Her work is based on the integration of sonic art and electronic music, in the form of sound/visual installations and live performance, emphasizing the matter of sound in relation to the space. Barbera has realized projects in art residencies, gallery shows, multimedia and electronic music festivals in Italy, France, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Pakistan, Brazil, Ireland, Bosnia Herzegovina, Finland, Switzerland and Norway, where has exhibited her works for the "To be heard is to be seen" group show in the Henie Onstad Art Center.

The exhibition will be supported by a critical text by Riccardo Conti