

TUCCI RUSSO STUDIO PER L'ARTE CONTEMPORANEA

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Wednesday > Sunday: 10.30-13 / 15-19

ALFREDO PIRRI

... in your shadow – 1988-2013

**Opening Sunday 19th May 2013 from 11.00 to 17.00
Until 29th September 2013**

The relationship with origins (the relationship with the shadow) marks the history of western representation.

Victor I. Stoichita, A Short History of the Shadow

Alfredo Pirri's solo show at the Tucci Russo Gallery, entitled "... in your shadow – 1988-2013", opens on 19th May 2013.

The title "... in your shadow" (a detail drawn from the Song of Songs) aims to underscore a course that the artist has been steering since the start of his career, in which a close link with shadow seems to be the essential principle of his work. Often in fact the coloured shadows that spread on the walls, almost as if seeking to grasp the entire surrounding environment, appear to be *direct emanations* of the forms that generated them rather than merely the result of interposing an opaque body between the source of light and the wall/screen. But even when the works do not explicitly employ this pictorial mechanism they dialogue with shadow understood as a cultural tradition (one example being his 2000 architectonic installation "Via d'ombra (Shaded Alley)" in the grounds of Villa Medici in Rome). His approach does not consider the world as a *purely* and *hierarchically* luminous phenomenon, a vision that relegates shadow to a simple manifestation *in negative* of light and brightness (both physical and intellectual); he sees it rather as an autonomous and hospitable entity to be inhabited by body and mind.

The exhibition presents works created by Alfredo Pirri over a period of twenty-five years, from the 1988 copper model of the installation "Cure (Care)", done for the Venice Biennale, to recent works composed ad hoc and entitled "Arie (Airs)" 2012/2013, in which white feathers and red painted feathers are applied to overlapping slabs of glass reflecting one another. They range from "Squadre plastiche (Plastic Squares)" 1989/1990, "Ombra su ombra (Shade over Shade)" 1992 and "Facce di gomma (Rubber faces)" 1992, already shown in the gallery but reformulated for this occasion, to "Crocifissioni (Crucifixions)" 2011, white boxes that open up on the walls as if by means of a chromatic deflagration originating within them.

Alfredo Pirri was born in Cosenza (1957) and lives in Rome.

He has exhibited in solo and collective shows in Italy and abroad: Venice Biennale, PS1, New York, Havana Biennial of Contemporary Art, Palazzo delle Papesse, Siena, Walter Gropius Bau, Berlin, Villa Medici, Rome, Bunkier Stzuki, Cracow, Centro d'arte "La Pescheria" Pesaro, Rijeka Contemporary Art Museum, Maison de la Photo Paris and the National Gallery of Modern Art in Rome where his installation "Passi (Steps)" is part of the permanent collection.

He has taught and held seminars at various institutions including: Bezalel Academy of Jerusalem, Academy of Lyons, Università La Sapienza of Rome and the Urbino Fine Arts Academy. He has also curated projects for young artists (Accademia dello Scompiglio, Lucca).