

FRANCESCA RICCI: TABULA IMPRESSA

The RW Project, Calle Cuba 25, Valencia

Friday 23 April – Saturday 26 June 2021.

Open Fridays 12-20 and Saturdays 11-13.30 or by appointment.

Private view: Friday 23 April 2021, 18-20.30.

The RW Project is pleased to present *Tabula Impressa*, an installation of mixed media works on paper, board, canvas and textile, and a video-work by artist Francesca Ricci. All the pieces are part of a composite visual project started in 2011 as an ongoing joint venture with writer Kiril Bozhinov.

The artworks, realised in different techniques, have as a base a collection of signs photographed on the streets and pavements of London. These marks, pointing to impending maintenance works, are deprived of their functional meaning and become the source of a new code and system of interpretation.

Composed by several bodies of works, *Tabula Impressa* is inspired by what Jung described as 'collective unconscious': a concept that sees man not born as a blank canvas (*tabula rasa*) but carrying in his subconscious elements from a communal, ancestral background.

In the first set of works, the signs are appreciated simply for their visual qualities, transcending their functionality and accidentality to become inner landscapes. They are then re-organised into a new alphabet according to their shape and intensity and assigned a fresh set of values to form an inventory to offer a new possibility of interpretation of reality (*Cache*). They are subsequently applied to decipher some visual compositions as encountered and photographed on the pavement. The result is a set of small size egg-tempera icons accompanied by a description (series *Apocriphisms*); or to compose visual arrangements inspired by other spheres of human knowledge, for example literature (*Will and Wish*). In the series *Anarca*, the signs are the base to design a set of Major Arcana referencing the traditional Marseille tarot deck.

As well as featuring seminal works from the original project exhibited in London in 2013, the exhibition showcases a selection of more recent works by the artist, from the series *Fondali* (*Backdrops* or *Sea-beds*) and *Annuari* (*Yearbooks*), which display more personal tones and underline the evolving nature of the project.

Part of the show is also the abstract video-piece *Glossary of Implications* (2019-21), a visual poem that questions the ever-changing meaning of words and images in regard to their belonging to a specific narrative or visual vocabulary.

All artworks are by Francesca Ricci based on photographs by Kiril Bozhinov, who is also the author of the project's nomenclature and texts.

Multidisciplinary artist and writer Francesca Ricci was born in Florence, Italy, where she graduated in Stage Design at the Fine Arts Academy. Based in London for many years, she developed here most of her art practice, exhibiting internationally in group and solo shows but also undertaking several collaborative projects, from fringe theatre productions to independent publications. She lives and works in Valencia since 2019.