

*IMAGE WORD TIME*  
*AGNETTI BOETTI REIMONDO MOCCIA*

*Image Word Time* brings together four Italian artists of diverse generations who share a number of common denominators. The great artists of international repute Vincenzo Agnetti (1926-1981) and Alighiero Boetti (1940-1994) were among the pioneers of “verbo-visual” and “conceptual” art with works sharing an intelligent, playful spirit with a dialectic or bipolarity between order/disorder, sign/design, signifier/signified; research featuring an omnivorous and multi-faceted vocation for the making of art as well as the “poetic-evocative” power of the use of the word. A number of these characteristics, resolved in a wholly independent manner, are also shared by artists of later generations such as David Reimondo (1973) and Rebecca Moccia (1992). Reimondo creates new utopian “languages”, Moccia reflects “calligraphically” on terms of the most intense modernity.

A number of selected works reveal the modular, grid-like composition and a geometric-mathematical basis for the development of the works themselves or the bilateral relationship between image and word in which one rediscovers the creative act of gestures associated with writing, language and communication. There is an alternation between the manual act and the mechanical act in the production of the work, between objectual presence and virtual substance. Other factors that characterise these strands of research are reflections on individual and collective identity and the analysis of the constituent systems of society such as “idioms” and “languages”.

Italy has a long and prestigious tradition, stretching back over centuries it might be said, of artist-writers, artist-poets, artist-theorist or simply artists who work, on multiple levels, with the allure of the word. The Futurist experimentation, for example, was in its turn to have an explosive international impact.

In certain cases, the terms *Image Word Time* actually combine and develop uninterruptedly. An image may evoke words, just as, of course, words evoke images, but the fusion with the variable of “time” offers further stimuli and opportunities for reflection – and on occasion short circuits – that render this research inexhaustible. Time, as well as being the “mighty sculptor” is a concept that every artist experiences and struggles with, time as journey and dissemination, time as forgetting and randomness, time as utopia and hope, time as chronicle and participation...

Heterogeneous times, infinite times...