

marionanni
ilrespirodellaluce
curated by beatrice caprioli
from april 18 to june 30, 2024
palazzo marcello
sestriere di cannaregio, 2137, venice

her whispered breath
hangs
suspended
in the void,
mirrored in a rhythmic sigh.
incandescent air,
vibrates with light,
ethereal yet perpetual,
in the flow of her own image.

press release

on the occasion of the **60th international art exhibition, la biennale di venezia**, marionanni will be featured in solo show titled **ilrespirodellaluce**, curated by beatrice caprioli, held at **palazzo marcello** in cannaregio **from april 18 to june 30, 2024**. after participating in the **2012 biennale** with a pavilion at the corderie dell'arsenale and the **2009 biennale** (*la parete narrante*, ca' giustinian), marionanni will take center stage with a selection of twenty-four works that explore the concept of what he defines to be his **metaluce**: the actual moment that sees the sublime state of the luminous matter surpassing its physical condition, becoming art in itself. thus, light unveils its essence of independent form, composing the scene and weaving a narrative that unfolds in the depths of our contemplative gaze. drawing inspiration from the evocative spirit of the palazzo, the artist creates a forward-looking show that echoes its renaissance ambiances yet gazes towards the future, serving as a prelude to a larger project encompassing the entire palazzo marcello in the coming years.

organized in two sections, the exhibition journey begins in the main hall on the first floor overlooking the grand canal with a loggia of windows. in this first section, **ilrespirodellaluce** (*the breath of light*, 2013) comes to life: a long tungsten filament cuts through the wall and, in a crescendo, illuminates the space with a beam of incandescent red light that expands and contracts, rises and falls, reminiscent of a deep sensual sigh released after long moments of waiting. in the background, an elliptical mirrored surface reflects the whole scene, duplicating the viewers' gaze and making them partake in the eternal birth of "the breath of light". a similar tension is encountered in the work **verso la luce, il rosso** (*towards the light, red*, 2013): a six-meter-long metal rod leans obliquely against the brick wall. from this emerges a luminous fan that decomposes itself and projects a mesmerizing interplay of light and shadow. their reflection on the floor gives space to a white shape that, in its candid purity, opens us up to a contemplative moment.

works from the series **la velocità della luce** (*the speed of light*, 2013) contribute to amplifying this mysterious, almost sublime atmosphere. plaster, oil, ink, and neon transform two panels into objects that narrate the essence of a luminous body in motion. in **la velocità della luce, il sole** (*the speed of light, the sun*, 2013), five circles of varying sizes and orientations, inscribed with yellow ink, descend across a blue plank; the composition reaches its fiery climax with a flat neon fissure – the horizon ablaze. evoking a sense of quiet surrender, the work portrays the sun as it nears the end of its journey. drowning in the deep blue, the celestial body leaves behind a shimmering reflection.

la velocità della luce, la notte (*the speed of light, the night*, 2013) transcends its title's suggestion of light's dominance. instead, it plunges us into the profound depths of darkness, the fertile ground from which all stories begin. here, in the silence of absence, the narrative unfolds. a red flash explodes on a long, flat board. this brief burst cuts through the blackness, making the dark surface come alive. like a momentary spark in the night, unforgettable yet ephemeral, the light leaves its trace in dense, circular imprints of purplish ink, echoing the memory of its swift passage.

the artist further explores the concepts of light and darkness, space and time, through both scientific inquiry and artistic expression, resulting in a series of thought-provoking studies and formulations. in **le compressioni della luce** (*the compressions of light*, 2024) he sets up a complex system of openings and mechanisms to confront the challenge of light compression. the intangible essence, seemingly resistant to capture or control, surpasses its ephemeral form and, in the artist's hands, it acquires weight, substance, and physicality that defies its very nature.

a thematic exploration of the key role that light plays in theater performances unfolds across two dedicated rooms on the second floor. the exhibition features a full recording of marionanni's visionary interpretation of verdi's opera 'luisa miller' which premiered at the teatro comunale di bologna in 2022. from direction to lighting, sets, costumes, and even jewelry, he orchestrated a truly immersive happening. the artist described the two-year project as "a transformative journey fueled by reflections, harmonies, and contrasts." in this production, light transcends its traditional role, transforming into scenography itself. the **metaluce**, as the artist terms it, becomes a medium to reveal a new perspective on giuseppe verdi's melodramatic masterpiece, "luisa miller."

the exhibition itinerary culminates in a powerful embodiment of marionanni's artistic philosophy: "enchantment arises when all the arts come together as one, transforming everything into a luminous, universal poem, *poesiadiluceuniversale*" (poetry of universal light). by weaving together different disciplines, the artist invites viewers on a transformative evolution, one that transcends the boundaries of individual art forms and reveals the profound beauty of a unified artistic vision.

biography:

marionanni was born in bizzuno in 1955. for over fifty years he explored, investigated, and created art with a pure, simple, yet sophisticated use of light, giving life to his own creative philosophy, that of the **metaluce**. in 2021 he was appointed artistic director of the **marino marini** museum in florence. he has participated in international exhibitions of art and architecture, including the **venice biennale** (in 2009 and 2012), and has exhibited in institutions such as the **triennale di milano**, **villa panza di biumo** in varese, the **reggia di monza**, and the **palazzo ducale di sassuolo**. he teaches at various universities, including the politecnico di milano, the university of florence, the iuav of venice, and the sorbonne universit  in paris.

info:

title: *ilrespirodellaluce*

artist: marionanni

curator: beatrice caprioli

setup: alberto torsello

dates: 18 aprile – 30 giugno, 2024

location: palazzo marcello, sestriere di cannaregio, 2137, venezia

opening hours: by appointment only. to book your visit, please visit the website www.marionanni.com

press office:

press office and communication | virgola@marionanni.com

artworks checklist:

respirodellaluce, 2013

verso la luce, il rosso, 2013

compressionedellaluce, 2024

pesce, 2005

ex voto, 2011

guerrieridellaluce, 2002

la velocit  della luce, il sole, 2013

la velocit  della luce, la notte, 2013

la velocit  della luce, la vita, 2013

l'incontro, verticale, 2013

doremiluce 02, 2024

noncepi , 2024

poesie

pioveluce, 1995

operanellopera, luisa miller, 2022

il respirodella luce
2013

filo luminoso e specchio
170 + 120 x 180 cm

bologna, museovirgola



ex voto
2011

legno e liv, lampadina a immagini variabili
201 x 191,4 x 56 cm

bologna, museovirgola



guerrieridellaluce
2002

ferro e luce
290 x ø43 cm

bologna, museovirgola



verso la luce, il rosso
2002

metallo e luce
600 x 12 cm

bologna, museovirgola



la velocità della luce, la vita
2013

legno, velluto e neon
120 x 180 cm

bologna, collezione privata



la velocità della luce, la notte
2013

gesso, inchiostro, olio e neon
250 x 90 cm

bologna, collezione privata



la velocità della luce, il sole
2013

gesso, inchiostro, olio e neon
90 x 250 cm

bologna, collezione privata



la compressione della luce, 4
2013

legno e luce
240 x 204 x 39 cm

bologna, museovirgola



la compressione della luce, 3
2024

legno e luce
185 x 300 x 112 cm

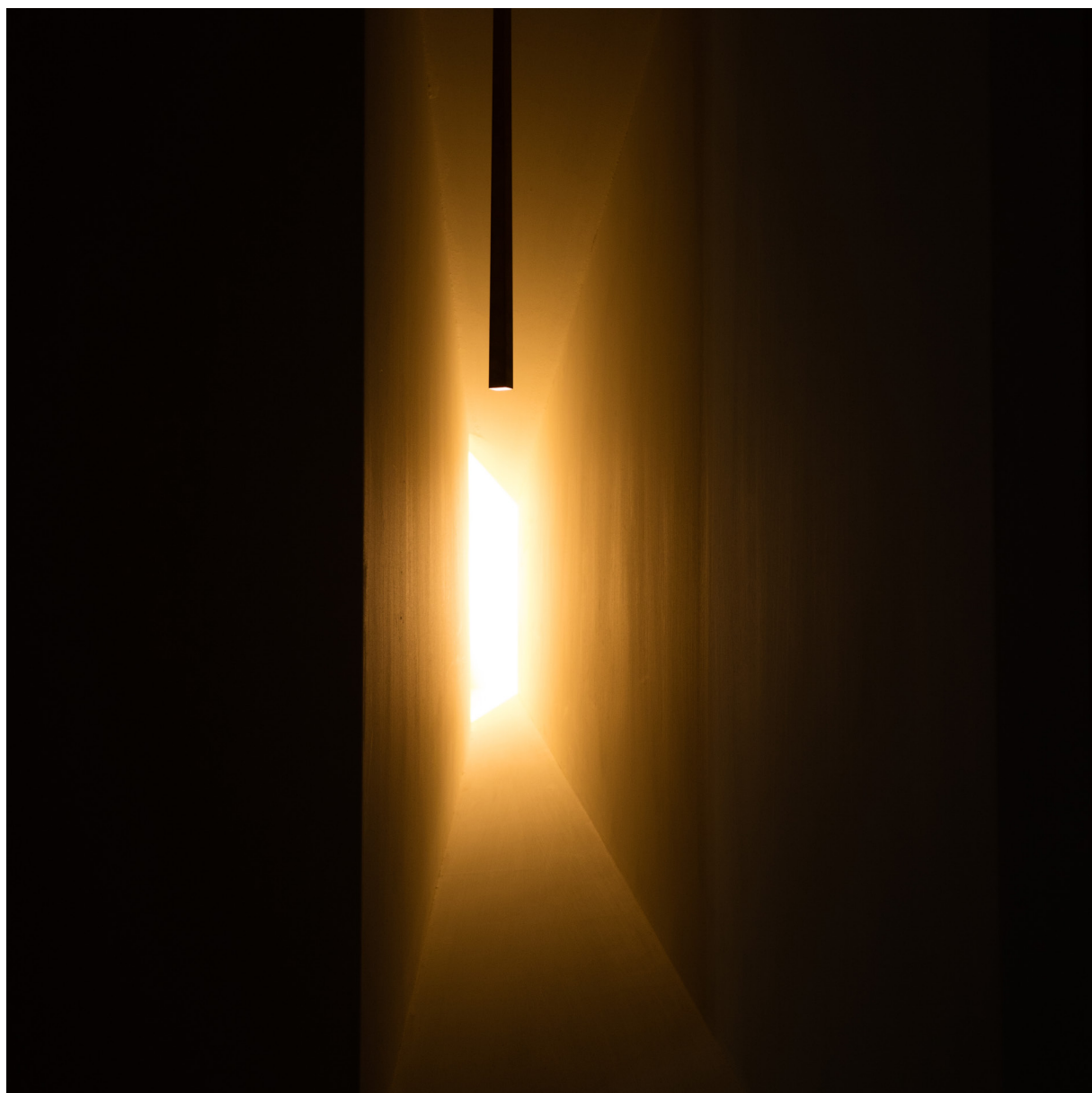
bologna, museovirgola



la compressione della luce, 6
2024

legno e luce
185 x 300 x 112 cm

bologna, museovirgola



opera nell'opera
2022

film

bologna, museovirgola



pioveluce
1995

materi e luce

bologna, museovirgola

