

Lidia León

TE VEO, ME VEO

Curated by Roberta Semeraro and Iris Peynado

Church Santa Maria della Presentazione or delle Zitelle

Fondamenta Zitelle, Giudecca 33 - 30133 Venezia

9 May – 30 September 2019

Opening hours: 10 am – 1 pm / 3 pm – 8 pm



Opening on 9 May at 5 pm

PRESS RELEASE 2

The exhibition **TE VEO, ME VEO** will open on the 9th of May, at 5 pm, in the Palladian church Le Zitelle, located opposite Piazza San Marco on the Giudecca island. It will be open until 30 September.

The Dominican artist Lidia León, exhibiting in Europe for the first time, has chosen as her main installation the work “Te veo, Me veo”. “Te veo, Me veo – writes the curator, Roberta Semeraro – comes directly from cosmogony as it recalls the *cosmic egg*, which would hang in the *apsidal conch* in Orthodox Christian churches. Then, if we consider art as an unconscious language, through which authors are rewarded by their artefacts, leading to the sublimation of the contents in the shape and structure of the work of art, “Te veo, Me veo” can also be connected with the birth and re-birth of Lidia León’s personality, who finds her integrity as a woman and artist in the act of creation. Just like the egg - with its shell - guards the mystery of life, the aluminium armour of the work “Te veo, Me veo” hides within itself the mechanism through which life develops, which is indeed the subject merging with the object of *knowledge*”.

At a young age, the Dominican artist studied photography, applied arts and then architecture. She grew up in a Catholic family, which for several generations has supported art and culture in their Country through the E. León Jimenes Cultural Center. In her creative world, the works by “Lileón” give space and shape to the concepts that are the foundation of human rights, linking two fundamental principles of ethics: freedom and equality. **Visitors will be actively involved**, entering some sort of airship with the typical aerodynamic structure, made up of mirror aluminium sheets and containing a cockpit with a simple tilting swing, half-hidden by a black fabric scenery flat, which splits it into two parts. An oval window - made of synthetic and plastic fibres - opens up in the middle of this scenery flat. Through a clever gimmick, it allows observers to get carried away by the game: **while swinging they will see the other’s face (Te veo) and soon after their own face (Me veo)**.

“Immanuel Kant (whose thought in the Practical Reason treatise is specifically a source of inspiration for Lidia León) – continues Ms Semeraro in her critique - like many other philosophers and thinkers, tried to explain an apparently simple rule, yet contradicted by intolerance and racial discrimination, which are still a feature of our time. By stating “*Act in such a way that you always treat humanity, whether in your own person or in the person of any other, never simply as a means, but always at the same time as an end*”, the German philosopher highlights the close correspondence of each individual action with the reality in which it occurs, having in the latter its effects and consequences. Therefore, if we look at the others and find in them a reflection of ourselves, as the artist invites us

to do, there will never be any exploitation in human relationships but only reciprocity between individuals, who will be certain to live in a system of justice and equality”.

The location is another fundamental element for the exhibition. “The reason why “Te veo, Me veo” is held in the **church Santa Maria della Presentazione** in Venice - Roberta Semeraro continues – is to be found in the holy gospels of the apostles Matthew and Luke. Furthermore, it is framed in the present tolerance and integration policies put forward by the Church and by the most progressive movements of contemporary society. Mention must be made, then, that this specific church was the place of worship of the Zitelle complex, the old boarding school which housed poor girls, saving them from a wretched life”.

After all, wasn't the Serenissima an *ante litteram* melting pot, a place open to crossroads of different civilizations? The mirror elements making up “Te veo, Me veo” remind us of the big stage of this city, where people and things live together in harmony with the environment, finding a balance in their manifold and different reflections in the water”.



Venice, 8 May 2019

Cultural Association RO.SA.M.

Dorsoduro, Fond. Di Borgo 1141 - VENEZIA

rosam.associazione@gmail.com

Contacts:

President Roberta Semeraro

E-mail semeraro.roberta@gmail.com

Mob. +39 338 485 8411

Vice-president Iris Peynado

E-mail irispeynado58@gmail.com

Mob. +39 349 8775347

Press and Communication Office

FG Comunicazione – Venezia

Davide Federici Cristina Gatti

info@fg-comunicazione.it

+39 331 5265149 – 338 6950929

www.fg-comunicazione.it