

Pianta Desiderio by Monica Sgrò

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Pianta Desiderio, by Monica Sgrò, is an artwork developed as a collective work, thought by the artist, and realized with a group of people. In this artwork, Sgrò declines, through a deep renovation, different compositional elements already found in previously artworks, from the collective work to the use of felt, to its site-specific features.

Take the spacious sculpture *Habitat-corpo* developed vertically and made of felt derived from colored virgin wool; or *Soglia d'Attenzione*, an environmental installation in blue felt and having a semicircular form, derived from a site-specific project developed inside the Abbey of Santa Giustina in Sezzadio.

Pianta Desiderio was designed with a strong connection to a specific location, which is Cassina de' Pecchi. The result, having a shape that evokes a felt carpet, was located on the last floor of the Maio museum, precisely in the tower that was once surrounded by a farmhouse and that still represents the center of the town.

To Monica Sgrò this artwork represents a new and critical stage of a journey in the making, as well as deep and progressive learning of new ways of creating and feeling.

Pianta Desiderio results from the contribution of a definite number of people who took part in its realization, which is stronger than in the previous artworks by Sgrò.

The process involved several stages and resulted in an actual shared process.

In the first stage, participants were invited to draw the itinerary from their home to the Maio museum and to take some photos on their way there. Approximately 80 testimonials were collected.

In the second stage, the participants, together with the artist, created a paper pattern composed of their different itineraries and photos taken in the area. During all the stages, the participants had conversations and spoke of current events in particular. The visual and narrative elements of this process let emerge essential values and wishes that were crucial to all the participants and that, together with the itineraries and the photos, contributed to the construction of an imaginary network. The result was the picture of a new "potential place", an enjoyable and desirable place.

On these grounds, started the collective work on felting, which is the transformation of the wool into felt. This activity is core to all the recent projects developed by Monica Sgrò.

The felt is a material derived from the sheep's fleece, which is a pacific and gregarious animal. You can get felt through the ability of the wool fibers to join without the use of additives or mechanical procedures, such as the use of a loom, but only through hand pressure, which gives the whole process a strong symbolic value. Hence, wool incorporates work, rhythm, and body movements.

The artworks by Sgrò recall a cultural tradition linked to felt, that lives in different parts of the world.

With *Pianta Desiderio*, after the contribution of many people to the drawing up of itineraries and photos later reported on the felt, dozens of people worked together to realize the

drawing on the big surface. Fluidity marked the artwork both in the colors and the shapes, evoking a landscape with roads and rivers, and the globe as well. Lines come from the direct contact with the material and the materiality of movements, as well as from the personal experience of the artist and a process resulting from sedimentation, absorption, and re-elaboration.

Pianta Desiderio is a map that was gradually composed bringing together personal experiences and collective memories. This artwork fully clarifies the sense of time and space, the idea of movement and travel, the vital force coming from working, interacting, and living together.

The realization also involved some ritual actions, that added deepness to the project. During the process, the group performed a propitiatory rite for the wool sowing in the park that surrounds the museum. The grass of Cassina De' Pecchi became a big carpet that absorbed all the strength coming from hand gestures and the energy of all participants, who sowed their wishes.

Traduzione a cura di Cinzia Simona Minniti