

Janine Prins - Passing through (parts of) Europe - week 6

Reflection nr 16

This could almost be any time, anywhere. Except that we are still in Italy. I will remember our time here mainly for the apparent preoccupation with food. Between 12:30 and 15:00 the country seems empty, closed down. Noon onwards many women hurry along with plastic bags, probably on their way home to cook. In the evening before dinnertime the streets brim with life, despite cold temperatures. Then suddenly empty again. What would Italians do without a watch, bars and women to organise regular meals?

Picture 1598 salami shop



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Picture 1390 Mare



Picture 1391 Terra



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Reflection nr 17

We are in Rome for a very short time and I ask where to find interesting not too established modern art. We are being referred to a former slaughterhouse 'Mattatoio' which has been converted into MACRO: museo d'arte contemporanea Roma. Here we find an exhibition by Piero Pizzi Cannella (1944) a Rome born artist who has spent a few years on the concept of cathedrals.

Picture 1583 Pizzi



Quite strange how well this work plays in a former slaughterhouse. Spaces, places, functions. They all blurr. Associations about religion and streams of blood.

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Cathedrals take generations to build. One 'cathedral' we might be engaged in this day and age may well be the concept of 'Europe'. Without just the one architect and without many believers, or so it seems. The notion of cathedrals appears outdated. I had hoped to find a more challenging exhibition near the area of Testaccio in Rome. But that graffiti-area seems to become gradually gentrified too.

Picture 1591 Mattatoio



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Reflection nr 18

Why on earth would I bump into an Indian like this at the Dome Square of Aquila up in the Italian Appenine mountains?

He tries to sell 'Indian ritual' music CD's this way, all over Europe. The sound of this music is Andean, yet his feathers look US Indian. I am completely confused and ask where he originates from: Ecuador. And the outfit? Well it's Andean and Amazonian and yes maybe something else as well.

Picture 1596



We Europeans are being provided with what looks like a post-modern compilation of the concept 'Indian'. As anthropologist my stomach turns. I still have to get used to such cultural fusion.

How would the outfit of a traditional compiled European look like, in order to help sell our cultural products elsewhere in the world, I wonder.