

press release

Mimmo Rotella. Erotique

The Galleria Carla Sozzani presents "**Mimmo Rotella. Erotique**" from October 8th to November 13th 2016. The exhibition is part of "**Mimmo Rotella 2016**", a larger initiative involving **Cardi Gallery, Fondazione Marconi, Galleria Carla Sozzani, Robilant + Voena** of Milan and **Mimmo Rotella Institute**.

The exhibition presents a selection of works focused on eroticism with an overview of the least known techniques in Rotella's oeuvre: **photographic transfer** (a technique in which a photograph is transferred onto an emulsified canvas) and **frottage** (the reproduction of the relief of an object traced on paper to make the shape appear).

These works were made between the end of the 1960s and the following decade when Rotella mainly lived in Paris and traveled on the French Riviera, becoming involved with the atmosphere and international glamour of Gassin, Ramatuelle and SaintTropez. After 1968 the so-called 'sexual revolution' had definitely dismantle the bourgeois morality. The "liberation of eros" was theorized as a liberation not only of sexuality, but also as a vehicle to unleash all the creative energies restrained by social conditioning mechanisms. Rotella was sensitive to the analysis and exploration of the erotic dynamics: "Next to my work, I count a lot on my erotic life which I never omit, because it also serves as inspiration and, perhaps, as the work at the same time. On this fact my life is focused, it relies on these erotic adventures, then at some time, they become the basis for my future work and present actions."

These elements are found in some of the works exhibited at Galleria Carla Sozzani: *La dolce conquista* 1972, *Other scenes*, made in 1968 from a photograph taken during a long stay at the Chelsea Hotel, and the *frottage* titled *Erotique*, 1971 in which black and white emphasize the allusive charge of the images.

"**Mimmo Rotella 2016**" is an initiative linked to the tenth anniversary of the passing of Mimmo Rotella. It involves a number of galleries and institutions in Milan, witnessing the relationship between the artist and the city where he worked and lived in his last years. The initiative is realized in collaboration with Mimmo Rotella Institute, set up in 2012 by Inna and Aghnessa Rotella with the aim of compiling the catalogue raisonné, improving understanding of the figure and the art of Mimmo Rotella and promoting his work at the national and international level. The Mimmo Rotella Institute is directed by Antonella Soldaini with the scientific support of Veronica Locatelli.

At the end of his Studies Fine Arts in Naples, in 1945 **Mimmo Rotella** (Catanzaro, 1918 - Milan, 2006) went to Rome where he worked as a graphic designer at the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. In 1951 he exhibited his abstract paintings during his first solo show at the Galleria Chiurazzi in Rome and won a scholarship with the Fulbright Foundation that allowed him to attend a masterclass at the Kansas City University. In 1953 he produced his first *décollages* and in 1960 he joined the Nouveau Réalisme. In 1964 Rotella participated at the XXXII Venice Biennale with a room dedicated to his works, and then went to live in Paris. In the '80s he moved to Milan, while in 2000 he founded the Fondazione Mimmo Rotella, currently chaired by Rocco Guglielmo and directed by Piero Mascitti. In 2005 he opened his house museum in Catanzaro, called Casa della Memoria (House of Memory). While still working, he died in Milan on 8 January 2006.

Mimmo Rotella. Erotique – Galleria Carla Sozzani in collaboration with Mimmo Rotella Institute

From October 8th to November 13th, 2016

Every day, 10.30am - 7.30 pm

Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10.30 am - 9.00 pm

