

GALLERIA MACCA

STRICTNESS

Rosanna Rossi
Tomm El-Saieh

*"Time flows equally for all men.
And every man floats through time in a different way"* (M. Neila)

Two distant glances, two different generations, Rosanna Rossi and Tomm El-Saieh met briefly but appreciated each other's works right away. In this short - yet intense - encounter of two different cultures, their mutual concern for a rigorous pictorial practice, dominated by the presence of the line, emerged. A line is *time*, length is a temporal concept, a dichotomy between internal time, slow and pondered, and external time, dominated by extreme dynamism and work carried out to the limit of fatigue and physical endurance. The line is also associated to a lyrical flow of colour, tamed and restrained by the reins of Rosanna Rossi's mind on a perfect pentagram; widespread and concentrated in Tomm El-Saieh's work, to obtain extremely different patterns. Rossi's "*beautiful lines*" (as Gillo Dorfles calls them) are part of a series of the 80's in which her research on *boundary geometry* became pivotal, their repetitive - almost tantric - movement is astonishing; the Haitian artist could be using the expert hands of an old cartographer who draws maps, after having sailed the oceans of the soul, indicating the contour lines (isobaths) and the safe havens. For both Rossi and El-Saieh, lines, patterns, colours... form a sort of *texture* we could easily associate to "textile", nearing their work to craftsmanship, and finding shared roots: insularity, traditions, sacrality. Besides the poetic elements, very important in both works, an investigation on the relationship between *Art* and *Perception* emerges, a *vexata quaestio* that still fascinates human minds, from the first specimen of *anamorphosis* to *Optical Art*.

[Efisio Carbone]

BIO

Rosanna Rossi

Born in 1937 in Cagliari, where she lives and works. After finishing her studies at the "Istituto d'Arte Zileri" in Rome, she returned to the Island in 1958. After her first experiences within the activities of "Studio 58", marked by an expressive figuration (expressive figurative styles), altered by material suggestions, in the next decade her research is oriented towards an abstraction that make naturalistic reminiscences in the use of color interact with the connotations of signs of the informal matrix. Even with periodic incursions in the 'ready-made', subsequent developments keep this project ambivalence, oscillating constantly between a constructive order of concrete ancestry and material-expressive solutions of the new informal abstraction. Teacher at art school from 1968 to 1983, she taught several graduate courses and at the European Institute of Design from 1984 to 1990 . From 1970 she began to work on permanent installations in public spaces. Her work continues to study traditional languages, but in an unusual figuration. In parallel to her own pictorial language she identifies new possibilities of expression obtained with simple, found, otherwise used, materials, bypassing the previously expressed tradition.

Tomm El-Saieh

Born in Port-au-Prince (1984), Tomm El-Saieh lives and works inbetween Miami and Haiti. In 2015 he was awarded by the prestigious Knight Foundation for his contribution to the ever-growing cultural offerings at South Florida, following his show at the ICA in Miami. He exhibited at Central Fine and Michael Jon Gallery, and was included in several group shows. His work is included in important private and institutional collections, including the ICA.