Semiotic Analysis

THE PISS CHRIST

THE PISS CHRIST (A.Serrano,1987) is a photography of Andrea Serrano who usually works with the human body's fluids as blood, mother's milk, sperm etc. This specific artwork is characterized by a crucifix submerged in his own urine.It appears as an evident instigation to the bigoted and conservative consciencies. Being a Christian and propose an apparently unorthodox image creates, in some communities a sort of contradiction, controversy and "mystification" as Iris Murdoch intended (I.Murdoch,1973),but if "Reading a photographer,

also depend closely on the reader's culture, knowledge of the world and ethical and ideological stances" (Barthes 1961,29) "The role of the sign as part of social life" (D. Chandelier 2002) could a labeled blasphemous image reveal a diverse significance? According to Magritte "Everything we see hides another thing….a sort of conflict, one might say between the visible that is hidden and the visible that is present" (Magritte,Son of man,1946) the possible desire to evoke the point of equilibrium with his creed, an individual representation of the intimacy with the faith as fruit of an alternative spiritual journey.

The signifier seems divided in two distinct truths which flowing parallel.

The outrageous and worshipper side. The symbols might be interpreted in various ways, a futile object, a too dark urine, the reflex of light as a subliminal message, the atheism, a provocation, the obscenity, an individual process of religious conversion. But all depend only on our way of perceiving. An additional aspect is the revaluation, an emotional reject/accept or vice versa. Therefore Charles Pierce affirms "The interpretant is subjective and inconstant ...the same individual who stumbles upon a sign twice at distance of time from another could produce two different interpretations" (Charlie Pierce,1900) In the base of a psychological experiment the neuroscientist Daniel Yon has drawn the simple conclusion that "We see what we believe" because "Our brain sculpt experience in line with our expectation"(D.Yon,2019). I personally identified in this artwork my experience and my way of thinking based on the fact of the paradox between the Christian education received, composed by dogmas and principles, and what in real terms the Christianity is, resulting no longer in a credible doctrine. I developed, perhaps like Serrano the will to approach, manifest and practice my devotion to God in a singular and distinguishable way. This is the reason why I didn't feel the same sense of repulsion like the

conservative majority. The French community of Avignon fervently protested and vandalised the museum where The Piss Christ was exhibited. Serrano had demonstrated to be an artist without glory and acclamation that abandoned the common idea of “Glamour” “Being envied is a solitary form of reassurance” (Berger,1979) and went through a media crucifixion in the name of his freedom of expression. For instance also Charlie Hebdo have paid a high price for their satirisation of the prophet and been attacked by a group of Islamic fundamentalists. A hard destiny for those who have a different point of view and method of expression throughout the art. Wherever Saussere declared “Being what the others are not” (Sauserre,1983) and Serrano seems substantially concretised the concept.

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Manifesto Task

1. Emptiness of soul is a tangible and recognizable trait of our society.

2. A practitioner must be a revolutionary,this should be the primordial characteristic of his purpose.

3. Passionately believe in your ideal and divulge it!

4. The courage of rebellion is the base of human emancipation.Activism is imperative!

5. Love art in all possible and imaginable forms and contemplate it even though sometimes make you fragile and vulnerable.

6. Your origins and your background define who you are ,but open to new cultures, spaces and horizons.Be a wild flower without roots.

7. The desire must be stronger than fear. Repeat it perpetual.

8. I am Italian and I feel lucky, but I was born in Naples and I feel privileged.

Emptiness of soul

MY OWN IMAGE: LITTLE HUMANS 2018

In the era of emotional regression more movies directors have had face with this theme. Paolo Sorrentino expressed the contemporary malaise with his artwork “The great beauty” representing an inexorable human’s decline. “A vision of moral chaos and disorder, spiritual and emotional emptiness” (Deborah Young,2013) to give a face to the weaknesses of an increasingly fragile man who through the tentative of social acceptance rapidly sinks into the abyss of insignificance,but if Jep “An observer and visitor of a vacuous defected humanity” (V.Sammarco,2013) is stuck in a disenchanted

dimension without outlet, in comparison Lester the protagonist of “American Beauty” seems to break the bubble illusion created by the utopia of the proverbial “American dream” “How the social convention can lead people into false and sterile lives” (Todd Mccarty,1999) A vile way to live towards ourselves represented in two cinematographic masterpieces. “Little humans” is my response based on my perception of clones of one with others, hidden behind false ideals and superficial appearance.

Activism is imperative

STAFF OF REUTERS:REFUGEE CRISIS 2015

Jose Marti’ stated “All true man must feel a sting when another man is slapped in the face” (Michael Lowy,1997). As aspirant photojournalist i have the moral commitment to express through my art the dissent, intolerance and

resistance. “Being young and not revolutionary is a biological contradiction” (S.Allend,1972). The photography, as vehicle of information, does not permit to be falsified and mistyfied. Even if it might be slightly altered remains faithful to his matrix with the priority function to not occult the authenticity. “When human beings are suffering they tend to look up, as if hoping for salvation .And that’s when I press the button” (Don McCullin,1987).But what distinguishes art and documentary? The long term of a reflexive project and the impulsivity of an action. The artist Banu Cennetoglu installed a list of refugee death, a powerful visual activism realized with dedication in years.I believe that the effort of a photojournalist is determined by his fair, courage and the intent to propose the actuality and some veterans of atrocity scenes are embodied the sacrifice to be recorderer witness.

Born in Naples and feel privileged

IMAGE BY SAM GREGG: SEE NAPLES AND DIE 2018

“Sea, how much of your salt are tears of Naples?(Alfredo Jaar,2016) Sam Gregg immortalised the real face of Naples starting from the womb of the alleys where the cult of the Virgins and Diego Maradona is omnipresent and the woman

are the Baroque frame at the corners of dilapidated palaces of post war.

The city of the Veiled Christ of Caravaggio that people ignoring to squirm into daily survival battles. “People are a product of their surroundings and the harsh living conditions have without doubt bred exceptional characters” (Sam Gregg,2018) Veracious, sacred, profane,majestic with a crown of thorns. My background composed by modernism and tradition, faith and superstitions,hopeless and optimism,a sort of Neapolitan bipolarity,permitted me to develop the quality to analyze these ambivalent factors.Grow up in a hostile contest temper the characters,influence the way of thinking, affirming own identity and sense of belonging.“A black and fertile land” (J.Paul Sartre, 1951)still influenced by the Spanish domination of the past and shines under the Renaissance’s light. It forces you to leave,but in front of the vision of Vesuvius made of magma, anger and miracles I could not avoid forgiving and contemplating it.

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Reflexive Task

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdvhfJ5FgPY
L'ULTIMO BACIO BY CARMEN CONSOLI 1999

Grief is a complicated process where psyche, soul and body are involved all together.Based on cultural beliefs, rituals and manifestation of mourning South Italian women wear black clothes for 4 years after a bereavement. My grandmother wore black for 6 years when she lost her son, but does the mourning translate also to animals? Is it going through the five stages indicated by Kubler-Ross of denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. (E.Kubler-Ross,1969) Numerous psychologists explaining how sometimes the pain felt for a pet is underestimated. When it happened to me I was devastated to have loose who helped me in one of the most critical periods of my life, when humans hardly sympathised with my pain condition, she was there healing my emotional wounds ...the power of pet therapy. Some artists tried to exorcise the visceral feeling of desperation through their art "Nothing provokes the artistic sensibility like grief"

(N.Strauss,2001) Aimilia Balaska to emerge from a deep trauma shaped under new forms,memories of her mother “The reconstruction of the original photographs is my attempt to come to terms with death and the effect that it has on us” (A.Balaska,2019)

Carmen Consoli wrote a poetic song of a cruel loss “The last kiss” (C.Consoli,1999). How does this affects an audience? Could we recognize and reflect our pain and feel less alone? LIstening to “The last kiss” in some ways intensified my pain, the verses were the confirm of the drama which was taken in our existences, however, created an invisible thread of conjunction between what I was feeling and her last moments. ”Thousand violins players from the wind the last kiss my sweet little girl, burned on the face like drops of lemon the heroic courage of an atrocious adieu ...the ruthless sense of a non-coming back”(C.Consoli,1999). These words aroused the sense of emptiness, the regret of not having loved her in equal way she loved me, the impotence of not being able to save her. Freud affirms “profound mourning,contains the same painful frame of mind...the same loss of capacity to adopt any new object of love “(S.Freud,1917) There is not a possible substitute that can replace, perhaps only could relief and create a fragile illusion of acceptance.

The song's purpose was not only to feel overwhelmed by nostalgia and keep the memory alive, gradually I have comprehended the message of hope which appeared to give a plausible reason in the attempt and respite to the sense of bewilderment, a sort of peaceful resignation. “Magical quiet, veiled indulgence after the ungrateful storm”(C.Consoli,1999)

I have imagined her on a rainbow bridge, in a new life cycle and liberated from any form of suffering. ”Take a breath and with intense transport celebrate a mild and unusual awakening”(C.Consoli,1999) in a better place and intact in her beauty. Worth an enormous effort but slowly I have accepted that death is a natural aspect which we must confront, that

should be closely analyzed to give a valid sense. Alice's death and the words of our song encouraged me to view the death from a different perspective, to be prepared in the future and to assume that the art can be curative.

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