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Nature

MARIA GIUSEPPINA GRASSO CANNIZZO IN COLLISIONE

curated by Pippo Ciorra and Margherita Guccione

Gian Ferrari Hall

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Rome, 13 December 2023. As a designer who is particularly attentive both to the artistic and expressive potential of architecture and to the technique required for its realisation, **Maria Giuseppina Grasso Cannizzo** is the protagonist of the 8th edition of **NATURE**, the series of exhibitions in which the MAXXI National Museum of 21st-Century Arts invites an author to design a site-specific installation providing a summary of their design research, a sort of 'three-dimensional self-portrait' (curated by **Pippo Ciorra** and **Margherita Guccione**, at MAXXI from **14 December 2023** to 17 March 2024).

The value of Grasso Cannizzo's projects is attested by the multiple recognitions she has obtained, among which the nomination for the Mies van der Rohe Award in 2003, the RIBA Awards/EU in 2012, the special mention for the installation *Onore perduto* (i.e. 'lost honour') by the jury of the 15th International Architecture Exhibition of the Venice Biennale in 2016 and the Italian Architecture Award promoted by MAXXI and Triennale Milano in 2021.

Parallel to her work as an architect, Grasso Cannizzo has made frequent forays into the field of temporary installations in museums.

Suspended between art and architecture and realised specifically for MAXXI, the installation **IN COLLISIONE** (i.e. 'in collision') reaffirms some of the aspects that characterise Grasso Cannizzo's work: the idea of time as an element of design, movement, the unrepeatable mix of technique and art, the ability to make space and materials interact, and the ability to enhance the existing.

Maria Giuseppina Grasso Cannizzo describes her work for *Nature* as follows: "The installation is the result of a desperate action against a horizonless space: like a battering ram, an imposing object is pushed several times against the wall at the back of the gallery, opening a breach that might allow for a possible escape route. No one knows what it is: is it an assault weapon, an unidentified object containing an unknown life form, the protective shell of a gigantic chrysalis awaiting a tear that will allow the moth to spread its wings and take flight? The device, which is as tall as a house, appears as a threat: it is large enough to strike fear, but could also contain spaces in which to find shelter. Once the danger signals have ceased, showing movement on the mute surfaces of the device, it is possible to get close to it, to access its interior, to cross it, to walk through it, overcoming numerous obstacles until, at the point where it came into contact with the back wall of the gallery, visitors come upon a breach/mirror. The reflected image of the explored space extends into the immeasurably thick wall to reach the denied horizon. Just as the moth freed from its chrysalis displays the splendour of its livery, the disclosed device reveals recesses in shadow and spaces exposed to light."

An Italian/English **catalogue** was produced for the occasion (Edizioni MAXXI), as curated by Pippo Ciorra and Sara Marini, with texts by Lorenza Baroncelli, Pippo Ciorra, Maria Giuseppina Grasso Cannizzo, Margherita Guccione and Sara Marini.

MAXXI PRESS OFFICE +39 06 324861 press@fondazionemaxxi.it