



Peter Dreher
100 Days
24.11.2023 – 27.3.2024
Casa Mutina Milano

Mutina for Art is pleased to present *100 Days*, an exhibition dedicated to the late German artist Peter Dreher (Mannheim 1932 – 2020), specifically conceived for the space of Casa Mutina Milano.

Curated by Sarah Cosulich, the exhibition sparks an unforeseen dialogue between the ceramic surfaces by Mutina and a collection of 100 canvases by the artist, drawn from the series *Day by Day*, *Good Day* and presented as a unified, expansive installation.

From 1974 to 2019 Peter Dreher has painted the same empty glass daily, portraying it from the same distance and using canvases of identical dimensions. In over 45 years, the artist amassed a remarkable series comprising almost 5.000 paintings. With his decision to continuously depict the same subject, Dreher has challenged the very essence of painting, pushing the boundaries that separate subjectivity from distance, illusion from abstraction, and gaze from perception.

Arranged sequentially throughout five interconnecting rooms, the works highlight Dreher's unwavering commitment to detail and his extraordinary sensitivity to the ever-changing play of light from day to night. Despite their subtle hues, each glass of the series *Day by Day*, *Good Day* distinctly captures the shifts and reflections of their surrounding reality.

The rhythmic cadence of the paintings in the exhibition serves as both a personal and universal journal, inviting a reflection on the infinite possibilities of the gaze. Dreher works in harmony with Zen Buddhism's emphasis on mindfulness and exploration of the ordinary to reveal profound truths. His repetitive act of capturing the changing light and its nuanced variations in each painting aligns with Zen's core concept of experiencing the present moment and seeking enlightenment through direct observation and meditation.

With their muted colours and articulated patterns, the ceramic walls that serve as background contribute to accentuate the atmosphere, the temporality and spatial illusion surrounding the canvases. The focus on the treatment of the surface, in painting as in ceramics, contributes to increase the tension between the three-dimensional nature of the subject and the environment in which it exists.

PETER DREHER – DAY BY DAY, GOOD DAY

Born in Mannheim in 1932, Peter Dreher was an important interpreter of German painting, professor at the Karlsruhe Academy of many artists, among which Anselm Kiefer and Wolfgang Leib. He trained together with interpreters of symbolism and expressionism and, with artists such as Sigmar Polke and Gerhard Richter, he shared an interest for the influence of Pop Art, choosing to decline in not through a political outlook, but through a focus on the everyday quality of his subjects.

Painting has been for Dreher almost a gesture of contemplation, a meditative mantra, a form of refuge and reaction to the destruction and atrocities of the Nazi regime during the Second World War. From still lifes, to portraits, from building facades to almost abstract motifs, Dreher has explored light and transparency in the attempt to portray reality as vision and not as knowledge.

He began his series *Tag um Tag*, *Guter Tag* (*Day by Day*, *Good Day*) in 1974 pursuing it for all his life. Every day and every night, with a hyper realist technique, he painted the same empty glass, placed on a table in front of a white wall. Of this same subject he has realized almost 5.000 canvases altogether.

Peter Dreher passed away in February 2020.



CASA MUTINA MILANO

Mutina corporate soul is accompanied by another venue which has been conceived to discover the philosophy and products of the brand through exclusive art projects and initiatives. The space, located in the heart of Brera district in Milan, comes alive thanks to a programme of exhibitions and special events. On site, also a team dedicated to the support and advice in the development of large-scale ceramic projects is always available.

ABOUT MUTINA FOR ART

Mutina for Art is the initiative that Mutina dedicates to contemporary art since 2017. In addition to a regular programme of solo and group exhibitions within the Headquarters of Fiorano Modenese and Casa Mutina Milano, the Mutina for Art project features This Is Not a Prize, annual award assigned to an international artist, which can develop in flexible ways according to the artist's needs. The Dialogues are the company's ceramic projects realized in synergy with artists and institutions.

ABOUT MUTINA

A company of excellence, Mutina represents a new way of looking at ceramics, no longer simply as tiles but as an interior design project. Mutina is a signature project that combines technology and craftsmanship with experimentation to overcome the limits of the material and essential research into high quality product. Mutina works with the most significative designers in the world: Michael Anastassiades, Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby, Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, Nathalie Du Pasquier, Konstantin Grcic, Hella Jongerius, Laboratorio Avallone, OEO Studio, Raw Edges, Inga Sempé, Patricia Urquiola and Tokuji Yoshioka.

For further info and material, contact:

Bianca Maria Bertolissi

Maria Elena Barbati

press@mutina.it

T: 328 6818414

www.mutina.it

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