

CONRADI

Flash Art online
October 26, 2010

Nadja Frank

Margini Arte Contemporanea, Massa (Italy)
Special project at Cava di Trugiano, Carrara

I admit it. The show was quite an adventure: climbing up to a marble quarry, slowly approaching the ones I define 'white canyons' and drowning into the mud created from the water the night before due to rain. Obviously my brown mesh ballerinas were not ready for it, I left one in the mud and I bet is still buried there somewhere. It will come out eventually. Luckily enough the artist was ready with a water pipe at the end of the tormented adventure.

Once all the troubles are gone you are pleased to acknowledge that a few facades of the quarry are painted in pastel colors, recalling the surrounding nature. The intervention of Nadja Frank (Lohrm am Main, Germany, 1980) in the quarry of Trugiano is a sort of reinvented nature, organic and harmonic: lilac, green, blue and orange are the colors she selected to cover some of the 'tons' of marble in this dry and compact landscape. Colors that blend with the dry, astonishingly bright environment.

Gradually the public regains acquaintance with the territory and instead of feeling alienated, a new journey of appreciation and familiarity begins. Walking up and down the shaft becomes a closer encounter with color, greatness and yourself. When people approach the area, they change their attitude by honoring the artwork with complete silence.

Trugiano, the name of the quarry ain't a conventional one. It is one of the oldest in Carrara and it is said to be the one that gave birth to San Severo's veiled Christ. At least this is what the owner of the 'incredible marble mountain', Alvisè Lazzareschi asserts.

What is interesting about Nadja Frank's project is that in an area like Massa-Carrara, different people came together to make this project possible, creating a sort of collaboration that turned into an extended family around the artist.
Veronica Martin