



Press release

### **Mimmo Rotella. Erotique**

The Galleria Carla Sozzani presents the exhibition **Mimmo Rotella. Erotique** from October 8th to November 13th 2016. This show is part of a larger review **Mimmo Rotella 2016** involving **Cardi Gallery, Fondazione Marconi, Galleria Carla Sozzani, Robilant + Voena** in Milan.

The selection of works exhibited on this occasion focused on eroticism with an overview of the lesser known techniques of Rotella's oeuvre: the photographic transfer reproduction (in which a photograph is transferred onto an emulsified canvas) and *frottage* (obtained by sprinkling a nitrate solvent onto the pages taken from magazines and transferring the image obtained to a sheet of white paper).

The realization of these works is closely linked to the period between the end of the Sixties and the Seventies, when the artist mainly lived in Paris while travelling first in New York – where he took a room at the Chelsea Hotel – and then in the French Riviera: here, he got involved with the atmosphere and international glamour of Gassin, Ramatuelle and Saint-Tropez. After the "Sixty-eight" the so-called sexual revolution dismantled the conservative ethics: the "liberation of eros" was theorized as a liberation not only of sexuality, but also as a vehicle to unleash all the creative energies, before restrained by social conditioning mechanisms.

Rotella is moved by the analysis and exploration of the erotic dynamics: "Next to my work, I count a lot on my erotic life which I never omit, because it also serves as inspiration and, perhaps, as the work at the same time. On this fact my life is focused, it relies on these erotic adventures, then at some time, they become the basis for my future work and present actions."

These elements are clear in the works exhibited at Galleria Carla Sozzani, as *La dolce conquista* (1972), *L'amplesso* (1975) and *Other Scenes*, realized in 1969 starting from a picture taken the previous year during his long stay at the Chelsea Hotel, or in the *frottage* entitled *Erotique* (1971) where the blank and white contrast highlights the erotic change of the images.

"Mimmo Rotella 2016" is an initiative linked to the tenth anniversary of the passing of Mimmo Rotella. It involves a number of galleries and institutions in Milan, witnessing the relationship between the artist and the city where he worked and lived in his last years. The initiative is realized in collaboration with Mimmo Rotella Institute, set up in 2012 by Inna and Aghnessa Rotella with the aim of compiling the catalogue raisonné, improving understanding of the figure and the art of Mimmo Rotella and promoting his work at the national and international level. The Mimmo Rotella Institute is directed by Antonella Soldaini with the scientific support of Veronica Locatelli.

At the end of his Studies Fine Arts in Naples, in 1945 Mimmo Rotella (Catanzaro, 1918 - Milan, 2006) went to Rome where he worked as a graphic designer at the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. In 1951 he exhibited his abstract paintings during his first solo show at the Galleria Chiurazzi in Rome and won a scholarship with the Fulbright Foundation that allowed him to attend a masterclass at the Kansas City University. In 1953 he produced his first *décollages* and in 1960 he joined the Nouveau Réalisme. In 1964 Rotella participated at the XXXII Venice Biennale with a room dedicated to his works, and then went to live in Paris. In the '80s he moved to Milan, while in 2000 he founded the Fondazione Mimmo Rotella, currently chaired by Rocco Guglielmo and directed by Piero Mascitti. In 2005 he opened his house museum in Catanzaro, called Casa della Memoria (House of Memory). While still working, he died in Milan on 8 January 2006.

### **Mimmo Rotella. Erotique – Galleria Carla Sozzani in collaboration with Mimmo Rotella Institute**

from October 8th to November 13th 2016

Every day, 10.30 am - 7.30 pm Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10.30 am - 9.00

