

The art of Sonia Costantini and the Panza Collection
by Giuseppe Panza di Biumo
27th September 2008

I have known her work for some years now and I have seen a continuous development and maturing of her technique in the direction of a more radical abstract composition, eliminating residual formalisms and improving her method of elaborating light which makes her work so fascinating. The technique used by the artist involves applying a ground of an acrylic, opaque colour with the superimposition of marks or patches of the same colour although this time in oils, therefore bright and reflecting. This amalgamation of the absorption and reflection of light creates both magical and surprising effects.

In order to view the result wanted by the artist it is necessary to look for a viewing point that is suited to this purpose.

The observer has to move in front of the painting until its surface transforms itself. At first sight it may seem like a sum total of small reflecting surfaces which provoke the disappearance of the colour: moving to the opposite side of the inclination of the lighting, however, the transformation is radical.

From being a bodiless and indistinct luminous reflection the colour becomes something substantial, although intensely dynamic: from a static condition to something that becomes. The colour becomes strong, powerful, almost aggressive, and at the same time it becomes inconsistent, a mass without mass.

From a scientific point of view light is a wave, it is not matter but only energy.

However, when it enters into contact with us and with things it is heated, transforming itself into a corpuscular substance having a very small mass that is compensated by a large quantity of radiation which makes it something necessary for life, the most necessary.

Sonia Costantini has made a miracle by evidencing this two-fold invisible reality of light. Two completely different realities which ought to reciprocally destroy each other instead of becoming a substance that gives us life.

An amazing scientific phenomenon discovered after centuries of research and by the artist understood and carried out intuitively.

How a wave becomes a corpuscle is an absolutely incomprehensible phenomenon, given that they are opposites.

The opaque surface absorbs the light in the moment in which it becomes matter. The bright surface reflects it, preserving its nature as a wave which has passed through sidereal space without it being transformed.

It is due to this extremely strange daily reality that I feel an inexhaustible desire to see, to look at Sonia's paintings.