

Stefan Schneider in the woods

Stefan Schneider was part of the group of artists and performers involved in the first part of the project "La collera delle lumache" [The Snails' Wrath] that took place in the days of July 18 - 23 last year. But he kept a low profile, almost incognito, that allowed him to go around undisturbed and unseen with his camera (strictly analog) and his agile 'outdoor' tripod in the area where the various events, both performative and installational, created by other artists took place. In those few days, Stefan (who had never been to those places before, and thus discovered them, like an explorer who had come to an unknown place, or maybe another planet..) took many pictures along the stretch of the alternative path leading to the Prà basin up to the Pis waterfall, capturing rare moments on film that record the gestures of the people walking on the path through the woods and along the stream. But also, after discovering them during his journeys, Schneider photographed the deserted corners of nature, such as the trees, rocks, and the stream itself, with the same attention and sensibility, and above all with great empathy, thereby making them protagonists of the project in the same way as the artists and performers, and their installations. The result, which can be seen on display at the Feltrificio Crumière Ecomuseum, turns out to be a real authorial work, so much more than a mere documentation of the events of those five days in July 2016. While there is certainly a descriptive precision in these twenty or so color photographs, what prevails is an almost fairy-tale-like and unreal atmosphere, created by using only elements of the tangible reality, captured as they appeared before the photographer's gaze. This is something very similar to the dream mechanism, which allows us to create new and ephemeral narratives using the images that remain in our memory. While dreamed stories disappear a few moments after reopening one's eyes, the images captured by Stefan Schneider will have a much longer duration, perhaps becoming material for other dreams by those who visit the exhibition and pause to observe them.

C F, May 2017

Stefan Schneider is a multi-faceted artist, active both in the musical field (he was also a founding member of the group To Rococo Rot until their dissolution in 2015) and in the visual arts. A student of Bernd and Hilla Becher, the famous couple of photographers in Düsseldorf (where he was born and still resides), he is inclined to turn his eye, always poetic and intimate, to landscapes, especially natural ones. A lover of the mountains, he has already carried out many photographic works in a mountainous environment.

(translated by Laura Culver)