

PRESS RELEASE | NINA DANINO - SORELLE POVERE DI SANTA CHIARA, A VIDEO & SOUND INSTALLATION IN A NEW CONTEMPORARY SACRED ART PROGRAMME AT ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH, HAMMERSMITH

Nina Danino - Sorelle Povere di Santa Chiara

30 October to 30 November, 2018

Private view: 30 October, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Open Cloister

The video and sound installation exhibited in St Augustine's Catholic Church, Hammersmith, gives a much needed platform and voice to women in the Church. These particular women have chosen a contemplative and cloistered life, shunning the attention of the outside world, and yet now Nina Danino puts them under the spotlight to help us understand who the real women are behind the veil. The context of a male, urban, religious community 'hosting' the female, rural, religious community, into its city church, adds extra layers of significance. The exhibition is organised by Austin Forum - the Order of St Augustine's hub for spirituality and culture - and is part of its Sacred Art series.

Austin Forum / The Catholic Church and Modern and Contemporary Art

Austin Forum aims to reestablish a strong and creative relationship between the Catholic Church and the Arts, especially within contemporary visual art. In the twentieth century, the Catholic Church invited its members to "read the signs of the times". In response to that, Austin Forum is working with artists whose artistic expressions say something about the world and the human condition today. Austin Forum is delighted to announce the fourth of a Sacred Art programme in the church building at St Augustine's, Hammersmith. We celebrate the creativity and practice of emerging and established artists and invite them to engage and respond to our sacred space. We invite them to enhance our worship and contemplation in this church.

Nina Danino, Sorelle Povere di Santa Chiara, 2015 - 2018

"An important figure in contemporary and experimental cinema, as a film director and artist, Nina Danino has followed certain strands that over the years that have characterised her films, such as the survey of sacred space (*The Silence is Baroque, Communion, Temenos*), the development of stories devoted to female figures (*Stabat Mater, "Now I am yours"*) and intimate and private narratives (*First Memory, Apparitions*). This project was carried out in collaboration with the small religious community of Poor Clares, in the Monastery of Santa Chiara in San Marino."

Alessandro Castiglioni Edited: . <http://www.e-flux.com/announcements/the-voices-of-the-sirens>.

The works have been installed for St. Augustine's Church in a video diptych with transcript publication, a 6 channel audio and artist's publication. The installation suggests number of dialogues; a theological or spiritual dialogue between the Augustinian charism of the host organisation and the research on the Franciscan ethos represented by the works. The two traditions share roots in the mendicant orders of the 13th and 12th Century and the ethos of service to the poor, whilst the Augustinian devotion to learning is in contrast with the Franciscan emphasis on simplicity. The landscape and the urban setting of the women's usually 'hidden' contemplative setting and the host church in the middle of London are brought together. This dialogue then extends to the gendered presence or inhabitation of the church by the woman-centred ethos of the works and in particular the sound of the domestic. The video interviews contribute oral local history and add the religious community to the history of women's collective living. The works also intervene at the level of the institutional intersections of curation of art in religious spaces. The exhibition is part of the (new) Contemporary Art programmed run by the Augustinians pioneering a new relationship with contemporary art.

St. Augustine's fascination with beauty extended to music. The phrase "whoever sings prays" (*Qui cantat, bis orat*) is often attributed to the saint.¹ In the audio piece, the untrained singing of the nuns is at the heart of the work: at once fragile, individual and choral, like their community life.



Ph: Daniela Baruli

¹ *Augustine Sermons 336, I PL 38, 1472*

Programme

Audio 13 minutes plays through the church Audio System

On weekdays at 9am, 10am, 11am, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6pm.

On Saturdays at 3:30pm, 4pm, 4:30pm

On Sundays at 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5pm

Video Diptych: Left: 12 mins 16mm film / Right Interviews 40 minutes

Continuous except during mass times: www.saintaugustineshammersmith.org/mass-times

Transcript Publication

Sorelle Povere di Santa Chiara artists' book

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DSAV Ltd is a specialist installer of audio-visual solutions that works with churches and community initiatives across the UK. We believe that Audio Visual technology is an invaluable tool that can be used in all aspects of ministry, including community outreach of which the collaboration between the Austin Forum and Nina Danino is an excellent example. Working with churches in the community is our passion so we are absolutely delighted and honoured to support such a worthwhile project that's really helping to make a positive difference.

Curators, designs & support

Curated by Fr Gianni Notarianni O.S.A. (Parish Priest of St Augustine's Church, Director of Austin Forum)

Thanks to DSAV Ltd and Goldsmiths for their support.

Visitor information

Admission: free

Opening times: Monday-Friday: 7 am to 7 pm, Saturday: 10:30 am to 7 pm, Sunday: 8 am to 7:30 pm

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Press information

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