

THE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE “DIES IRAE” BY MARIA W HORN WILL BE PRESENTED AT SANTA MARIA ANNUNCIATA IN CHIESA ROSSA IN MILAN ON 15 DECEMBER 2022

Milan, 18 November 2022 - Swedish composer Maria W Horn will present her new work “Dies Irae” in Milan at Santa Maria Annunciata in Chiesa Rossa church, whose spaces host the light installation by American artist Dan Flavin created by Fondazione Prada. The musical performance, presented by Threes Productions and MMT Creative Lab, in collaboration with Fondazione Prada, will take place on Thursday 15 December 2022 at 8 pm (doors open at 7.30 pm).

The interior of the church designed by Giovanni Muzio in 1932 becomes the ideal place to host and enhance Maria W Horn’s music, which will dialogue with the site-specific intervention *Untitled* (1997) by Dan Flavin (United States, 1933 - 1996). The work was produced after his death by Fondazione Prada in collaboration with Dia Center for the Arts in New York and Dan Flavin Estate. *Untitled*, one of the last projects conceived by Flavin, was presented on the occasion of his first Italian solo exhibition organized in Milan by Fondazione Prada, which has been supervising and supporting the conservation of the work ever since.

Green, blue, pink, golden and ultraviolet lighting produced by fluorescent tubes crosses the church’s nave, transept and apse, creating a chromatic succession that suggests the natural “night-dawn-day” progression of light, attributing a metaphysical dimension to the artist’s work. The essential spatial and architectural approach, the restricted vocabulary of forms and colours and the innovative discovery of an art of light have made Dan Flavin one of Minimalism’s pioneers and leading exponents.

“Dies Irae” is inspired by a poetic composition in Latin dating back to the 13th century and attributed to the Franciscan poet Thomas of Celano. It is a vision of the Day of Judgement, between divine salvation and eternal flames, on which Maria W Horn builds a pièce for a female vocal quartet and electronics. The piece is divided into two vocal parts, and for the occasion, the choir will consist of four local voices.

The compositions of Maria W Horn (1989) implement synthetic sound, electroacoustic and acoustic instruments and audiovisual components, often devising generative and algorithmic processes to control timbre, tuning and texture. She employs varied instrumentation ranging from analog synthesizers to choir, string instruments, pipe organ and various chamber music formats. Acoustic instruments are often paired with digital synthesis techniques in order to extend the instruments’ timbral capacities. Often based on minimalist structures, her music explores the inherent spectral properties of sound and their ability to transcend time and space, reality and dream.

For the first time, Fondazione Prada is collaborating with Threes Productions, which has organized a series of concerts at the Santa Maria Annunciata in Chiesa Rossa church since

2017. The program has included performances by international artists from the minimalist and avant-garde scene, such as William Basinski, Charlemagne Palestine and Ellen Arkbro, and a reinterpretation of a composition by Arvo Pärt, exploring the boundaries between sacred and profane music, between tradition and innovation in dialogue with the religious dimension of the place.

Since 2018, Fondazione Prada has developed a path of musical investigation that extends from the classical to the experimental genre, from electronic to contemporary production. This new collaboration represents not only an opportunity to confront Dan Flavin's historic installation again but also an opportunity to expand its reach further. Approaching contemporary music is part of an intellectual quest based on mixing different languages, implemented by Fondazione Prada to promote new cultural tools and formats beyond the visual arts.

Press contacts

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Information

"Dies Irae" by Maria W Horn

A musical performance presented by Threes and MMT Creative Lab, in collaboration with Fondazione Prada

Santa Maria Annunciata in Chiesa Rossa church

Via Neera 24, Milan

15 December 2022

The entrance is from 7.30 pm and the performance starts at 8 pm.

Tickets are available at <https://link.dice.fm/p4680eb78b61>