

COLLECTING PEOPLE

2015/2016

n° 1

RELATIONS BETWEEN ARTISTIC  
AND PHILOSOPHICAL RESEARCH

# the art of thinking

Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

at 5:30 p.m.

## ALFREDO PATERNOSTER

Professor of Philosophy of the Mind at the University of Bergamo, the Doctorate Program in Humanities of Turin University, and FINO - Consortium of Doctorate in Philosophy in the North West of Turin.

## EVA FRAPICCINI

Artist and Adjunct Professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna and at the IED-European Institute of Design.

## Feeling you exist. Perception, emotion, and memory.

*What relationship does philosophical and artistic research have with the knowledge coming from neuroscience and cognitive sciences in regard to the issue of the construction of personal and collective identity?*

Eva Frapiccini and Alfredo Paternoster address thematic nodes that they both share in their artistic and philosophical research, especially by discussing the link between perception, emotion, and memory in relation to neuroscience and everyday experience. What does it mean to "feel", "be moved", and "remember or forget an experience"? How do the neurobiological processes that underlie perception, language, and memory determine what we are personally or collectively?

In his research, Prof. Alfredo Paternoster has addressed the relationship between the knowledge that come from neuroscience and philosophy on numerous issues, and has written important contributions, including *Feeling you exist*, from which this meeting takes its name (A. Paternoster, M. Marraffa, Sentirsi esistere. *Inconscio, Coscienza, Autocoscienza* - Feeling you exist. The Unconscious, Consciousness, and Self-Awareness, 2013).

Addressing the complex issue of how subjectivity and consciousness emerge from neurobiological processes and social unconscious, Paternoster says: "One of the most important tasks of philosophy today is to help make the scientific picture of the world interact with the image of common sense, thereby clarifying what relevance the hypotheses and scientific discoveries have in our lives [...] Therefore in interacting with neuroscience, philosophy must first of all aim at clarifying whether and how a certain neuroscientific hypothesis has consequences for the understanding we have of ourselves and of our mental life."

The artistic research of Eva Frapiccini investigates the relationship between language and memory in their invisible forms. Her works use various techniques and methodologies including photography and installations. She recently created *Dreams' Time Capsule* (2011-2016), an archive of 1,200 audio testimonies of dreams, which starts from the memory of dreams as a source of human knowledge; in her work entitled *Museo Caneira/The Physics of the Possible* (2011), she created a museum dedicated to a fictional character, questioning the contemporary systems of knowledge production. In April 2015 at the Alberto Peola Gallery, there will be the inauguration of her second solo exhibition, entitled *Selective Memory/Selective Amnesia*, which takes Israel Rosenfield's theory on mnemonic mechanisms as its starting point, and in which Frapiccini proposes several works that explore the process of sedimentation and the removal of the memory. Through the re-elaboration of her photographic archive, she created a series of polychrome photographs, *Velvet*, 2015, and the installation-archive *Lamine* (Foils, 2015). She made the series *Golden Prison* by using the manual deformation of the photographic printing, and *Scoprendo la sudditanza* (Discovering subjection), 2014, where she alludes to the removal and transformation strategies as consensus operated by power.

Credits: Eva Frapiccini, *Dreams' Time Capsule*, 2012 (photo: Emma Fredriksson).

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## EVA FRAPICCINI



**Eva Frapiccini** has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in Italian and foreign institutions including the Townhouse Gallery, Cairo (2012), Museum of Architecture in Stockholm, the Botkyrka Konsthall, Sweden (2012), Castle of Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art, Italy (2012, 2014), FACT Museum, Liverpool (2014), Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation, Turin (2014), Nederlands Fotomuseum, Rotterdam (2011), MAMbo Museum of Modern Art in Bologna (2009), Bilotti Museum, Rome, House of Photography, Moscow (2007), Museum Auf Abruf, Vienna, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin, and Luxembourg Casino (2006).

She has participated in several international exhibitions such as Alwan 338 Public Art Festival, Foundations in Bahrain (2014), the Venice Architecture Biennale, the Italian Pavilion (2010) and in several international festivals such as the Festival of Photography in Rome (2006-07) and Photo Espana (2006). In 2012, she was an artist-in-residence at the Townhouse Gallery in Cairo, as the winner of the international residency project Resò, promoted by the CRT Foundation, and in 2013, she was selected for the Moroso Award for Contemporary Art.

Her art works are in numerous institutional collections such as at the Castle of Rivoli, the Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation, Mambo - the Museum of Modern Art of Bologna, the Modena Photography Foundation, and the Civic Museums of Monza, as well as in private collections. Eva Frapiccini's publications include the bilingual monograph *Muri di Piombo* (Walls of Lead) published by Skira in 2008. Since 2011, she has been a lecturer at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna and at the European Institute of Design in Turin, and a tutor at the Master of Fine Art Image of the Modena Photography Foundation.

## ALFREDO PATERNOSTER



**Alfredo Paternoster** teaches Philosophy of Language and Philosophy of the Mind at the University of Bergamo and at the Consortium of Doctorate in Philosophy in the North West of Turin. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the magazine *Sistemi intelligenti* (Intelligent Systems) and of the Scientific Committee of the magazine *Philosophical Inquiries*. His areas of research are the analytic philosophy of language and of the mind, particularly the theories of concepts, the philosophy of perception, cognitive semantics, mental simulation, the epistemological foundations of cognitive science, and theories of consciousness, self-awareness, and the Self.

Among his publications, we only mention the monographs *Sentirsi esistere. Inconscio, Coscienza, Autocoscienza - Feeling you exist. Unconscious, Consciousness, and Self-Awareness* (with Massimo Marraffa, Rome-Bari 2013); *Persone, menti, cervelli. Storia, metodi e modelli delle scienze della mente* (People, minds, brains. History, Methods and Models of the Mind Sciences (with Massimo Marraffa, Milan 2012); *Introduction to the Philosophy of the Mind* (Rome-Bari 2010); and *Philosophy and the Senses* (Rome 2007; French translation, Grenoble 2009). He has edited several anthologies including *Cognitive Sciences: an introduction to philosophy* (with Massimo Marraffa, Rome 2011) and *Tyler Burge: Language and Mind* (Genoa, 2005).

