

YOKO ONO

SMILE

9 ottobre 2010 - MACRO Testaccio - piazza Orazio Giustiniani 4 - dalle 20 alle 24

Yoko Ono's film, **SMILE**, will be projected on the external facade of **MACRO Testaccio** (Piazza Orazio Giustiniani, 4), on the evening of October 9, 2010. It is being organized by **Studio Stefania Miscetti** in collaboration with **MACRO - Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome**, to honor the seventieth anniversary of John Lennon's birth, and also in conjunction with the Day of Contemporary by AMACI and RomaArt2Nights. The projection of **Smile** in Rome is one of a number of initiatives occurring around the world, to celebrate the memory of John Lennon and his work for peace. The film, titled **Film No. 5 (Smile)** was made by Yoko Ono in 1968, using a high-speed recording of John Lennon smiling at their home in London. Yoko Ono has written about the film:

"Last year, I said I'd like to make a 'smile film' which included a smiling face snap of every single human being in the world. But that had obvious technical difficulties and was very likely that the plan would have remained as one of my beautiful never-nevers. (...)

They say that in the corner of the world there is a man who sits and spends his life in sending good vibration to the world, and when a star twinkles, we are only catching the twinkle that was sent 1000 light years ago, etc. (...)

Imagine a painting that smiles just once in a billion years. John's ghostly smile in Film No. 5 might just communicate in a hundred year's time, or maybe, the way the things are rolling, it may communicate much earlier than that. I think all the doors are just ready to open now. One light knock should do. It's just that there are still a minority group in the world who are afraid of the doorless world to come. They're just not sure how they can cope with it. But most of us know that doors are just figments of our imagination. The good thing is though, that law of nature that once you know, you can never unknow things, so the doors are going to disappear pretty rapidly, I think". Yoko Ono, October 2, 1968

Yoko Ono is a multi-media artist who constantly challenges the traditional boundaries of art. She is known for her groundbreaking conceptual and performance pieces, experimental films and music.

Yoko Ono was born in Tokyo in 1933. She moved to New York in 1953 to study music composition and poetry, and was one of the initiators of the city's early performances and avant-garde art activities, with germinal activities such as a one-woman exhibition of conceptual paintings at the AG Gallery, and a solo concert at Carnegie Recital Hall in 1961. That year she was extremely influential in the formation of Fluxus as well. In 1962, on her return to Japan, she held a solo performance and one-person conceptual exhibition of her Instruction pieces at The Sogestu Art Center, Tokyo. In 1964 she performed **Cut Piece** in Kyoto and then Tokyo, and published her legendary artist book **Grapefruit**. In New York in 1965, she wrote the first version of **Film No. 4 (Bottoms)** and a participatory environment, **The Stone**. In fall of 1966, she participated in the "Destruction in Art Symposium" in London, and held her major exhibition "Unfinished Paintings and Objects" at the Indica Gallery, where John Lennon first met Yoko Ono. During the next several years in London and New York, she made a number of important films and records, including **"Fly"**, and formed The Plastic Ono Band.

In 1971, a retrospective titled "This Is Not Here" was held at the Everson Museum of Art, New York. Since the late eighties, Yoko Ono has shown in numerous museums and kunsthallen around the world, and was the subject of three major touring exhibitions: "Have You Seen the Horizon Lately," organized by the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford; "YES YOKO ONO," organized by the Japan Society in New York; and "BETWEEN THE SKY AND MY HEAD," organized by the Kunsthalle Bielefeld, Germany. She has exhibited in several Venice Biennales, and received the prestigious Golden Lion Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2009. That same year, she held the important exhibition "ANTON'S MEMORY" at the Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation, Venice.

Yoko Ono first showed her work in Rome at the Studio Stefania Miscetti in the exhibition titled **"A Piece of Sky,"** 1993. The gallery also sponsored two projection events, **Lighting Piece** in Florence in 1995, and **Smile Event** which was held simultaneously with the Yoko Ono film festival at the Palazzo delle Esposizioni in 1996, Rome.

Her most recent album, "Between My Head and the Sky," 2009, has received international critical acclaim.

Yoko Ono is well known for her peace initiatives, first with her husband John Lennon, **Bed-In for Peace** and **War Is Over! (If You Want It)**, and more recently with her **IMAGINE PEACE TOWER** in Iceland and participatory **Wish Trees** throughout the world.

Reflecting on her reputation for being outrageous, Yoko smiles and says, "I do have to rely on my own judgment, although to some people my judgment seems a little out of sync. I have my own rhythm and my own timing, and that's simply how it is."

Special thanks goes to Giancarlo Soldi and Diaphramma - Roma

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