

L'abbraccio del serpente
Marcela Castañeda Florian
2024

In the complex dialogue between memory and creation, the work of colombian artist Marcela Castañeda Florian, exhibited at the Galleria delle Carrozze of Palazzo Medici Riccardi, represents a meeting point between past and present, between personal and collective history, between the need to survive and the ability to renew oneself. In *Sinestesie*, the gallery, part of the site that once housed the ancient bed of the Mugnone stream, becomes a space for reflection on human resilience, adaptability, and regeneration, offering visitors a synesthetic experience.

At the heart of the site-specific installation is a bamboo skeleton, a material that evokes the artist's roots, laden with symbolism. Bamboo, an organic, resilient, and flexible element, symbolizes a nature that renews itself, a metaphor of resilience and continuous transformation.

The artwork, a circular and walkable structure, recalls the ouroboros, the serpent that bites its own tail, an ancient symbol of the eternal cycle of life, continuity, and perpetual movement, an archetype of the existence's totality, which unites opposites, generating an uninterrupted flow.

Much like a river that flows following the curves of the land, Castañeda's work adapts to the space, revealing a fluidity that is both natural and evocative. The elements recall the concentric waves created by a stone dropped into water, a movement that symbolizes the flow of time and memory, in constant evolution.

The strong and flexible bamboo, which regenerates itself, represents strength and adaptability, a theme already present in the artist's previous works, such as *Architecture of Survival*, *La Casa Addosso*, and *Kosmo*, creating a continuous thread that traverses time and space.

This space is not just a sculpture to contemplate but an environment to inhabit and pass through, an invitation to reconnect with nature by following its flow; a place of meditation and awareness, where the visitor is called to reconcile with the natural landscape, accepting it as an integral part of their existence and origin. In this dialogue between the work and the space that hosts it, Marcela Castañeda Florian offers a reflection on our ability to adapt and the necessity of embracing change. *L'abbraccio del serpente* is not just a tribute to resilience but a living testimony to the regenerative power of nature and humanity, an invitation to build a future that recognizes and values the past.

Exhibition text by *Beatrice Pasquali*

Translation by *Camilla Marruganti*