Au Revoir (station, deconstruction, shore)
Scartoni/Donati
2024

The intelligence of plants is a complex topic, deeply rooted in nature itself, challenging our traditional understanding of the plant world. For centuries, plants have been considered static and passive beings, devoid of consciousness and subordinate to human action. However, according to recent discoveries in the field of plant neurobiology, this living universe, although lacking intellectual capabilities, shows intricate signs of perception, communication, and adaptation. Plants tell stories of resilience and cooperation, demonstrating a form of intelligence that challenges our anthropocentric conceptions. They possess an innate ability to respond to external stimuli, to remember past experiences, and to make decisions for their own well-being by coordinating with each other, an ingenuity expressed through underground root networks and complex chemical and neural interactions. Every leaf, every flower, every tree holds a fragment of ancient knowledge, a wisdom that transcends words and invites us to see the world with new eyes. Plants, apparently lacking those qualities that define intelligence by human standards, have been relegated in our perception to a marginal role. Scartoni/Donati guide the viewer in a reinterpretation of nature, structuring the journey through two interventions directly related to other works on display.

The narrative unfolds starting from an expanded sound space, composed of a soundscape structured into three acoustic stations with the aim of revealing a gradual and analytical shift from the natural to the artificial, in which the pursued mimicry proves fallible. The first station, characterized by an environmental imprint, is entirely composed of natural sounds, an ecosystem untouched by human intervention. This is followed by an attempt to anthropomorphize the natural element, based on an analysis of water sounds mediated by artificial devices such as showers, drainpipes, and sinks. Finally, it arrives at an artificial but ineffective mimicry, where improvised vocalizations attempt to imitate the sound of water, sometimes producing ironic results.

Exhibition text by *Lucrezia Gelardo*, *Manuel Panìco*

Translation by *Camilla Marruganti*