



ABC - ARTE
Contemporary Art Gallery

Via XX Settembre 11 A
Genoa 16121 - Italy

www.abc-arte.com

Tomas Rajlich **Fifty years of Painting**

curated by Flaminio Gualdoni

On Friday April the 27th ABC-ARTE gallery opens a wide exhibition dedicated to Tomas Rajlich, to celebrate his half a century of painting. Works made between the Sixties and today will be exposed, a proper selection to show the audience a complete vision over his career.

Born in 1940, Rajlich grows inside the avant-garde Prague group Klub Konkretistů, in the wave of the international neo-avant-garde movements symbolized by Azimut in Italy, ZERO in Germany, Nul in Holland. After expatriating Czechoslovakia in 1969 following the Soviet invasion, Rajlich moves to the Netherlands, where the avant-garde atmosphere is alive and where his conception, based on working on regular squared grids, close in a way to Piero Manzoni's Achromes, is immediately very welcome by the heart of growing conceptualism.

In 1974 he has very important solo exhibitions at Yvon Lambert in Paris, at Art & Project in Amsterdam and at Françoise Lambert in Milan - for many years his reference galleries - and the following year he is one of the main artists, together with Brice Marden, Robert Ryman, Gerhard Richter and others, in the memorable exhibition "Fundamentele schilderkunst / Fundamental painting" at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, a milestone event for the international affirmation of Analytical Painting.

Soon Rajlich's work focuses on the discovery of a full color dimension, open to symbolic and poetical influences, towards more open gestures and an irrational aliveness, through the addition of a spectrum between yellow and red, sky blue and pink and gold, without modifying any aspect of the rigorous essential structure of monochrome.

As Flaminio Gualdoni writes in his essay dedicated to the exhibition: "Color hits the image with a short and detectable rhythm and occupies it all with itself. In this way it avoids any instrumental, compositive logic and linguistic hierarchy: it is and it gives itself, for itself, for being itself the substance of looking, of image: for being light".

In 1993 Gualdoni curates Rajlich's first retrospective at Palazzo Martinengo in Brescia, followed by the ones at the Haags Gemeentemuseum dell'Aja in 1994, the Kunsthalle in Karlsruhe in 1996, Prague's National Gallery in 2008, as well as the Gemeentemuseum in The Hague in 2016, the Museum Kampa in Praga 2017 and in 2018 at the Boijmans museum in Rotterdam.

Rajlich has been recognized as one of the main artists among the international neo-avant-garde panorama.



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During the inauguration, a new book dedicated to the exhibition will be presented, in Italian and English, ABC-ARTE editions, including the curator Flaminio Gualdoni's critical essay, images of the exhibition and works, and a rich section for historical documentation.

Tomas Rajlich. Fifty years of Painting

Inauguration on Friday April the 27th h. 6.30pm - 9.30pm

April 27th 2018 - June 27th 2018

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday 9.30am - 1.30pm; 2.30pm - 6.30pm

Sunday and Monday by appointment only

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Tomas Rajlich - biografia e cv

Tomas Rajlich (1940) enjoyed an arts education in Prague at the School of Decorative Arts and Academy of Fine Arts. He trained as a sculptor and soon opted for working in the geometric vein. In 1967 he co-founded the Klub Konkretistů - the Czech equivalent of Nul or ZERO -, which acquired him national fame. A couple of years later the international art world discovered his work at the Musée Rodin in the group show Sculpture Tchecoslovaque.

In 1969 Rajlich decided to flee his homeland due to the Soviet Occupation and settled in the Netherlands. He was named professor at the Vrije Academie and found his vocation to become a painter. Represented by the galleries Art & Project, Amsterdam, and Yvon Lambert, Paris, before long his work was appreciated on an international scale. Rajlich was invited to participate in ground-breaking exhibitions like Elementaire Vormen (traveling exhibition, 1975), Fractures du Monochrome aujourd'hui en Europe (Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, 1978), Bilder ohne Bilder (Rheinisches Landesmuseum Bonn, 1978) and, most importantly, Fundamental Painting (1975) at the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam.

As this exhibition pointed out, Rajlich's canvases show an ongoing concern with the "fundamental" in painting, not unlike contemporary work by the American Minimalist painters. His early works are characterized by an industrial outlook and a modular quality - their trademark is the grid -, while Rajlich's mature works show a more complex treatment of the key idea that painting is a self-reflective entity. His recent monochromes explore the combination of the impersonal, the gestural and the creative force of light; they are variations on the intensity, luminosity and facture of the paint, all while clearly remaining a factual painting. The artist's sensibility emanates from the subtle modulation of the paint on the canvas; yet, the emphasis is on color and the other elements of painting as well as on the creative force of light that eternally changes the painted surface - all the while emphasizing the two-dimensional quality of the object. The focus is entirely on the painting in and of itself. The plays of light merely imbue these canvases with a life of their own, which never ceases to tickle the sensibility of the viewer. These are paintings continuously reviewing painting.

Rajlich's first retrospective show was presented by the Palazzo Martinengo, Brescia, in 1993. His adoptive nation, the Netherlands, awarded Rajlich the prestigious Ouborg Award for his lifetime endeavors in 1994, at which occasion the Haags Gemeentemuseum showed a second retrospective exhibition; and a decade later in 2005, in honor of his 65th birthday, the museum hosted a retrospective of the artist's works on paper. In his native Czech Republic, the Dům umění města Brna featured a retrospective in 1998, and the National Gallery in Prague showed a retrospective made out of 27 large-scale canvases a decade later.

Rajlich's works are part of numerous respected public collections worldwide, for example: Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Amsterdam; Museum of Modern Art, New York; MNAM/Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; SMAK, Ghent; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; and the National Gallery in Prague. Likewise, he was commissioned to execute monumental canvases, as for example for the The Council of State in The Hague and the Embassy of the Netherlands in Accra, Ghana. From 1999 to 2002 Rajlich was an artist in residence at the MNAM/Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris. Since 2010 he lives and works in Prague, Czech Republic, again and near Verona, Italy.



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Selected solo shows

2018

Tomas Rajlich, Museum Boijamans Van Beuingen, 10 Febbraio - 27 Maggio 2018, Rotterdam

2016

Tomas Rajlich - Structures in paint, Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, The Hague (NL)
Tomas Rajlich: Ab Imis, MAC - Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Lissone (MB)

2015

Tomas Rajlich, Galerie Závodný, Mikulov

2010

Museo Cascina Roma, San Donato / Milano
Museo Michetti, Francavilla al Mare (CH)
Fabbri CA, Milano

2009

Kunstruimte 09, Groningen

2008

Heden, Den Haag
Galerie Ramakers, Den Haag
Národní Galerie, Praha (retrospective)

2007

Fondazione Zappettini, Milano

2006

Galerie Der Spiegel, Köln

2005

Galerie Ramakers, Den Haag
Dům umění, České Budějovice
Haags Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag (retrospective of drawings)
Kunstruimte 09, Groningen

2003

Jiri Svestka Gallery, Praha

2000

Galerie Ramakers, Den Haag

1998

Dům umění, Brno (retrospective)

1997

Galerie Zámek Klenová (retrospective of drawings)

1996

Galerie Minnen, Antwerpen
Staatliche Kunsthalle, Karlsruhe

1995

Link, Contemporary Art Company, Den Haag

1994

Centro d'Arte Santelmo, Salo
Haags Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag (retrospective)

1993

Palazzo Martinengo, Brescia (retrospective)

1991

Artline, Den Haag

1990

Galerie Im Winter, Bremen

1988

Studio La Citta, Verona
HCAK, Den Haag

1987

Aele, Madrid
Shinseido Hatanaka Gallery, Tokyo



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1986

Galerie Im Winter, Bremen

1985

Artline, Den Haag

1983

Art & Project, Amsterdam

1982

Artline, Den Haag

1980

Artline, Den Haag

1979

Galleria Peccolo, Livorno

Haags Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag

Art & Project, Amsterdam

1978

Haags Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag

Centraal Museum, Utrecht

1977

Art & Project, Amsterdam

1976

Stedelijk Museum, Schiedam

Yvon Lambert, Paris

1975

Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster

Groninger Museum, Groningen

Art & Project, Amsterdam

1974

Yvon Lambert, Paris

Seriaal, Amsterdam

Art & Project, Amsterdam

Françoise Lambert, Milano

1973

Museum Bochum, Bochum

1972

Collection d'Art, Amsterdam

1971

Stedelijk Museum, Schiedam

Haags Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag

Selected Group Exhibitions

2015

Atmosfera ZERO - Great Expectations, Cortesi Gallery, London

2014

SKY! - in Dutch Art since 1850, De Hallen / Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem

2012

Minimal Myth. Museum Boijmans-Van Beuningen, Rotterdam

2009

Pensare Pittura: Una Linea Internazionale di Ricerca negli

Anni Settanta. Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Villa Croce, Genova

2008

Analytica, Annotazioni d'Arte, Milano

2007

Playground, Galerie Ramakers, Den Haag

Doors to thought, Galleria delle Battaglie, Brescia

2006

3m unter Null, Städtische Galerie im Buntentor, Bremen



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De Schwitters a Toguo, MNAM / Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris

2005

Abstracte Salon, Kunstruimte, Groningen

2004

Pittura 70: Pittura Pittura e Astrazione Analitica, Fondazione Zappettini, Chiavari

Wege zur Abstraktion III: Farbfilm, Kunstverein Schloss Plön, Schloss Plön

2002

Recent Acquisitions, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam

Een anatomische droom, Stroom, Den Haag

2000

Pleidooi voor intuïtie, Haags Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag

Suoni della superficie, Galleria comunale d'arte contemporanea Ai Molini, Portogruaro; Fondaco delle Biade, Feltre

1999

Bleistiftzeichnungen II, Galerie der Spiegel, Köln

Nineteen-ninety-nine, Haags Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag

Rasters, Galerie Ramakers, Den Haag

1998

Schaakmat, Galerie Nouvelles Images, Den Haag

Chiaro e oltre, Centro d'arte Santelmo, Salo

1997

In gesprek met Vermeer, Stedelijk Museum Het Prinsenhof, Delft

Konkrete Kunst & Cinétisme & Op Art, Galerie der Spiegel, Köln

Arte a Contatto e Borderer, Galleria Peccolo, Livorno

1996

Aspekte Niederländischer Kunst heute, Städtische Galerie, Lüdenscheid

1995

Indizi terrestri, Palazzo Ducale, Mantova

1993

Abstrakt, Der Deutsche Künstlerbund, Dresden

1992

22 jaar verzamelen, Centraal Museum, Utrecht

En Suite, HCAK, Den Haag

1991

Art Works, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam

1989

Verzameling aan zee II, Haags Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag

Fundamentele Malerei, Kunstverein, Arnsberg

1988

Verzameling aan zee, Haags Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag

Op het eerste gezicht, Noordbrabants Museum, 's-Hertogenbosch; Stedelijk Museum Het Prinsenhof, Delft

1987

Kunst van de 20ste eeuw, Centraal Museum, Utrecht

Spiel der Überraschungen, Städtische Galerie, Bocholt

Zesmaal schilderen, Culturele Raad, Vlissingen

1986

Het oog op Den Haag, Haags Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag

L'art dans l'usine, Institut Néerlandais, Paris

Aspecten van het Tekenen, Stedelijk Museum, Schiedam

1985

Signalen van Buiten, Museum De Beyerd, Breda

1984

Het Beschrijven van Kwaliteit, HCAK, Den Haag

1983

Von der Ungleichheit des Ähnlichen in der Kunst, Städtisches Museum,



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Gelsenkirchen; Städtische Galerie, Lüdenscheid; Kunstverein, Unna

1981

Peter Stuyvesant Collectie, Provinciaal Museum, Hasselt

1980

Haagse Ateliers, Haags Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag

1979

Unga Hollandare, Liljevalchs Konsthall, Stockholm

Elementaire Vormen, St. Pietersabdij, Gent

1978

Fracture du Monochrome aujourd'hui en Europe, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris

Bilder ohne Bilder, Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn

1977

Trois Villes - Trois Collections, Musée d'Art et d'Industrie, Saint-Étienne; Musée Cantini, Marseille; Musée de Grenoble, Grenoble; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris

Elementaire Vormen, Midland Group Gallery, Nottingham

Kunst van na 1945, Haags Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag

1976

Betreffende het Schilderen, Museum Bommel-Van Dam, Venlo; Stedelijk Museum, Schiedam; Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst, Utrecht

Elementaire Vormen, Musée d'Art et d'Industrie, Saint-Étienne; Louisiana Museum, Humlebaek; Niels Onstads Stiftelser, Oslo; Groninger Museum, Groningen;

Muzeum Sztuki, Lodz; Museo di Castelvecchio, Verona

I colori della pittura, Istituto Italo-Latino Americano, Roma

1975

Fundamentele Schilderkunst, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam

Tekenwerk van 10 Nederlandse Kunstenaars, CIC, Gent

Elementaire Vormen, Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn; Saarlandmuseum, Saarbücken;

Kunsthalle, Nürnberg

1973

VIII. Biennale de Paris, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris

Lof der Tekenkunst, Stedelijk Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven

1971

Werken van Tsjechoslowaakse Grafici, Centraal Museum, Utrecht

1970

Artisti contemporanei di Praga, Palazzo dei Principi, Bologna

1969

Junge Künstler aus der Tschechoslowakei, Berlin

1968

Klub konkretistů, Stuttgart, Jihlava, Olomouc, Karlovy Vary

Sculpture tchécoslovaque, Musée Rodin, Paris

1967

Nová jména, Špálova galerie, Praha



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Selected Public Collections

Centraal Museum, Utrecht
Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem
Haags Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag
Musée d'Art et d'Industrie, Saint Étienne
Musée Cantini, Marseille
Musée de Grenoble, Grenoble
Museum Boijmans-Van Beuningen, Rotterdam
Museum of Modern Art, New York
Národní Galerie, Praha
Peter Stuyvesant Foundation, Amsterdam
S.M.A.K., Gent
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
Stedelijk Museum, Schiedam
Stedelijk Museum De Lakhall, Leiden
Stedelijk Museum Het Prinsenhof, Delft

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Stedelijk Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven 1973.
BLOTKAMP Carel & HAKS Frans et al. Kunst van nu: Encyclopedisch overzicht vanaf
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Elsevier, Amsterdam 1995.
BONOMI Giorgio. Tomas Rajlich: La monocromia anche.
Fondazione Zappettini, Milano 2007.
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Galleria Peccolo, Livorno 1987.
BOOL Flip. En Suite.
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BROOS Kees. Tomas Rajlich.
Groninger Museum, Groningen 1975.
BROOS Kees. "Tomas Rajlich" in Elementary Forms.
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BROOS Kees. Tomas Rajlich.
Haags Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag 1978.
BROŽEK Libuše. "Tomas Rajlich" in Bulletin.
Centraal Museum, Utrecht 1978.
COLLOVINI Diego. Suoni della superficie.
Villotta & Bergamo, Portogruaro 2001.
DE BOER Cees. Aspekte Niederländischer Kunst heute.
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DIPPEL Rini. Fundamentele Schilderkunst.
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GUALDONI Flaminio & PETERS Philip. Tomas Rajlich: opere 1969 -1993.
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PAALMAN Hans. Tomas Rajlich.
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PEGORARO Silvia. Toccare con gli occhi e con la mente: la pittura di Tomas Rajlich.
Fabbri CA, Milano 2010.
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Stroom HCBK, Den Haag 1994.
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SUN, Nijmegen 1998.
ZANCHETTA Alberto. Tomas Rajlich: L'inesorabile divenire.
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