

READY-MADE PLANĒTA READY-MADE PLANET

Barbara Feslere / Barbara Fässler

Māksliniece / Artist

"Glezna ir vērtība tikai tad, ja tā ir veselums:
tai nav vajadzības neko piebilst, tikai būt."¹

"A painting has value only if it is an entirety:
it has no need to add, just to be."¹

Māksliniekam Pjero Manconi (*Piero Manzoni*, 1933–1963) māksla ir elementārs ontoloģisks pētījums, zinātniski pamatu meklējumi. Gleznu viņš uzskata par brīvības telpu, kas meklē attēlu, kad ir tikusi laukā no iztēles telpas. Glezna, kas tiek analizēta savā priekšmetiskajā esībā, paver ceļu bezgalīgiem eksperimentiem ar matēriju, kuru gaitā materializējas doma. Manconi drudžainajā pētījumā bez atelpas – tas prasīja tikai astoņus gadus – ideja gūst virsroku pār uztveri un aizliedz mākslā parādīties ekspresijai un vēstījumam. Dažos darbos, kas ir izteiktā konceptuāli, mākslinieks skatītājam pat neļauj pieklūt darbam, parādot vien kontaineru ar etiķeti, uz kurās ir rakstīts iesaiņojuma saturs. Mēs nevaram pārbaudit, kas patiesām ir Pjero Manconi kontaineros. Atliek vien ticēt rakstītajam. Šākie papīra tīstokļi ir ielikti melna kartona cilindrā ar oranžu etiķeti. Garākais ir 7200 metru, ga-tavots 1960. gada 4. jūlijā no pl. 16 līdz 18.55 avīzes *Herning Avis* rotaprintā pie mecenāta Āges Damgārda (*Aage Damgaard*) Herningā, Dānijā. Tas ir ierullēts slēgta cinka cilindrā, kas aizzīmogots ar svina plāksnēm, cilīnainie burti vēsta par darba īpašajiem pagatavošanas paņēmieniem. Arī Kremonā dzimušā mākslinieka populārākais darbs "Mākslinieka sūdi" (*La merda d'artista*) 90 eksemplāros, kas nesen Sotheby's tika nosolīts par 125 000 eirām, slēpj saturu, tā ka visu laiku izskan spekulācijas par to, kas tad īsti ir tajās svina kastēs. Noslēpums vēl nav atminēts, jo jebkurš mēģinājums kasti atlauzt neizbēgami iznīcinātu mākslas darbu.

Rūpīgi sagatavotā restrospekcija, ar ko Milānas pilsēta godina savu slaveno iemītnieku, akcentē Lombardijas galvaspilsētas nozīmi jaunā mākslinieka tapšanā un piemin 51. gadskārtu kopš viņa nāves un 80. viņa dzimšanas gadskārtu. *Palazzo Reale* sarīkotās izstādes kuratori ir Flaminio Gvaldoni (*Flaminio Gualdoni*) un Rozālija Paskalino di Marineo (*Rosalia Pasqualino di Marineo*). Ekspozīcija izseko mākslinieka neparastās dailrades gaitai no gleznošanas sākumiem, pēc kuriem sekoja analītiski eksperimenti, līdz pat pēdējiem darbiem, kuros precīzāk atspoguļota mākslas idejas un mākslinieka loma.

Interviājā Rozālija Paskalino di Marineo uzsver, ka "sadarbība ar Flaminio Gvaldoni noritēja ļoti sekmīgi. Flaminio ir mākslas vēsturnieks, mākslas kritiķis, kas lieliski pārzina kolekciju savukārt es ļoti labi zinu

For the artist Piero Manzoni (1933–1963), art is elementary ontological research, a scientific search for the fundament. He considers a painting as a space of liberty looking for the original image that surmounts any space of representation. A painting, which is analysed in its existence as an object, opens the way to endless material experiments as concretisation of thought. In Manzoni's constant feverish research – which required only eight years – the idea gains the upper hand over perception and excludes expression or narration from art. In some works that are more manifestly conceptual, the artist even prevents the viewer from accessing the work, showing instead a container with a label that describes the contents of the package. We cannot verify what is really in Manzoni's containers. We just have to believe what the writing on the label of the package tells us. The shortest lines on paper bundles have been placed in a black cardboard cylinder with an orange label. The longest line is 7,200 metres long and was made from 4:00 p.m. to 6.55 p.m. on July 4, 1960, on the *Herning Avis* newspaper's offset duplicator at philanthropist Aage Damgaard's in Herning, Denmark. It is rolled up in a closed zinc container, which is sealed with lead plates and letters that describe the technical specifics of the contents. The most popular work by Manzoni, *Artist's Shit* (*La merda d'artista*, made in 90 copies and recently auctioned at Sotheby's for EUR 125,000), also hides its contents, so that there's constant speculation about what is really in those food cans. The secret has still not been solved, because any attempt to break open the boxes would inevitably destroy the work of art and its value.

The carefully prepared retrospective, with which the City of Milan honours its famous citizen, highlights the capital of Lombardy's significance in the formation of the young artist and commemorates the 51st anniversary of his death and his 80th birthday. The show, curated by Flaminio Gualdoni and Rosalia Pasqualino di Marineo and held at *Palazzo Reale* in Milan, follows the history of this exceptional conceptual oeuvre from the beginnings with painting, passing by the analytical experiments, right up to his last works, in which the role of the art and the artist is most accurately reflected.



Skats no Pjero Manconi izstādes /
View from the Piero Manzoni exhibition

Foto / Photo: Barbara Fässler
Foto no publicitātes materiāliem / Publicity photo
Pateicība / Courtesy of the Manzoni Foundation

darbus, kam ir noteikta fizikalitāte. Bijā interesanti salīdzināt mūsu atšķirīgo kompetenci, atrodot iespēju patiesai sadarbībai. Es vairāk nodarbojos ar koordinēšanu un praktisko darbu kopā ar Kristīnu Šenkū (*Christina Schenk*) no Milānas komūnas. Mēs visi trīs kopīgi izvēlējāmies darbus. Labākais šajā sadarbībā bija tas, ka tajā bija daudz dialoga un arī eksponīcijas iekārtošanas un sagatavošanas posmā mēs veidojām skices kopā ar arhitektu Valteru Palmjeri (*Valter Palmieri*). Īsti nebija nekādas darba dalīšanas, bet daudz kas tika paveikts komandā.”

Šīs sadarbības rezultāts starp vēsturiski teorētisku pētījumu un praktiskām zināšanām ir hronoloģiskā līnija, kas palīdz mums saprast, kā noritēja mākslinieka spraigā karjera, kura spēji pārtrūka. Eksponīcija sākas ar agrīniem Pjero Manconi darbiem, ko viņš radīja uzreiz pēc universitātes studiju pārtraušanas, lai kļūtu par mākslinieku (1956–1957). Šajā sērijā ir abstrakcionistiski eļļas darbi pārsvarā tumšos toņos, daļēji *dripping* (pilinājuma) tehnikā, iespiežot krāsā priekšmetus vai šad tad kaut ko uzrakstot pa virsu. Nākamā sērija, kas tapusi 1957. gadā, savukārt uzrāda skaidru *Pittura Nucleare*² ietekmi – darbi veidoti no darvas, eļļas, akmeņiem vai naglām ar dažādiem balsta materiāliem:

In an interview with me, Rosalia Pasqualino di Marineo, the niece of the artist and curator of the Manzoni Foundation as well as of the show, emphasised that her “collaboration with Flaminio Gualdoni went along very well. Flaminio is an art historian and art critic who knows the historical and theoretical context superbly, whereas I am very familiar with the collection and the works that have certain physicality. It was interesting to confront each other and to collaborate with our different competences.”

Asked how she distributed the roles concretely, Rosalia Pasqualino di Marineo responded: “I was more involved with the co-ordination and practical work together with Christina Schenk from the Milan Municipality. We selected the works together; Flaminio just made a first consideration, on which we made some variation. The nicest aspect of this collaboration was the fact that it has been based on a continuing dialogue, and we created the sketches together with the architect Valter Palmieri during the setting up of the exposition and in the preparation phase. There really wasn’t any sort of division of labour, but a lot was achieved as a team.”



Pjero Manconi. Ahroma. Trušāda /

Piero Manzoni. Achrome. Rabbit skin

Diametrs / Diameter 45.5 cm

1961

Foto no publicitātes materiāliem / Publicity photo
Pateicība / Courtesy of the Heart, Herning Museum of Contemporary Art

uz papīra, audekla, masonīta (saplākšņa). Šie veidojumi miglaini atgādina liriskā abstrakcionisma tendences – forma prevalē pār attēlojamā saturu. Manconi pats to komentējis šādi: "Kad paņēmiens ir parādīts, tad darbs kļūst par mākslinieciska fakta tapšanas dokumentu."³ Atmiņas par abstraktā ekspresionisma glezniecības paņēmienu tendencēm un Džeksona Polloka *Action Painting* drīz vien atkāpsies nākamā soļa priekšā, kas Manconi dailrades priekšplānā izvirzīs konceptu un notikumu. Tā norāda Flaminio Gvaldoni izstādes kataloga tekstā *Piero Manzoni, Life and Works*: "Es vairs nekad mūžā netaisīšu gleznas, bet tikai notikumus."⁴

Garajā, izvērstajā sērijā "Ahromas" (*Achromes*), kas sastāv no baltām gleznām, ar kurām mākslinieks strādāja no 1957. līdz 1962. gadam, viņš savus mākslas darba identitātes meklējumus pārnes no virsmas uz gleznas priekšmetu. Par to liecina apstāklis, ka visas krāsas ir reducētas līdz vienai – baltai, kas apzīmē krāsas attālināšanos un izzušanu kā gleznas identitātes elementu. Mākslinieks novērš mūsu uzmanību no krāsas kā jēgas nesējas un uz virsmas klātas gleznieciskas vielas, pārceļot to uz "gleznu" kā priekšmetu un tātad uz mākslas darba identitātes tēmu. Līdzīgi kā *Action Painting* un *Colorfield Painting* pētījumos, kas tajā pašā laikā norisinājās ASV, Pjero Manconi ar balto monohromiju un vielas struktūru, kura regulāri atkārtojas, dod mājienu uz ideāli neierobežotu telpu. Lai arī Manconi baltajām gleznām ir malas, to izmēri ir pilnīgi nejauši, jo ahromatisks (bezkrāsains) priekšmets patiesībā ir iecerēts kā mūžīgi atkārtojams, tātad kā tāds, kas aizņem visu telpu. Uzlükodams gleznu kā šādu neierobežotu telpu, Pjero Manconi skaidri pieslēdzas tālaika jauno Milānas mākslinieku dižmecenātā Lučo Fontanas spasiālisma (telpiskuma) problemātikai. Fontana sagraiza vienkāršainu audeklu, lai varētu just tā telpiskumu, savukārt Manconi dod mājienu uz telpas bezgalīgumu: "Kālab gan neatbrīvot šo virsmu? Kāpēc nemēģināt atklāt visas telpas, tīras un absolūtas gaismas, neierobežoto nozīmi?"⁵

Katalogā parādās vairāki konceptuāli aspekti, piemēram, Manconi dailradē ir spēcīgas atsauces uz antīko un moderno filozofiju, kas uzsver viņa klasisko izglītību, tas, iespējams, ir mazpazīstams fakts, pat ja viņa darbos ir jūtami slēpti mājieni uz filozofiju. Jaunais mākslas vēsturnieks Gaspare Luidži Markone (*Gaspare Luigi Marcone*) esejā "Ahromas – valodnieciski filozofiskas pārdomas" norāda uz Pjero Manconi klasiskajām studijām un filozofisko ievirzi – viņš ir lasījis Kirkegoru, Niči, Heidegeru, Sartru un ir pierakstījies Romas Universitātēs antīkās un teorētiskās filozofijas kursos, ko vēlāk pameta, lai varētu pilnībā nodoties mākslai.

Baltajās gleznās, "Ahromās", kuras sākumā veidotas ar krītu, tad ar māliem vienkārši uz audekla, kas pēc tam uzkarsēts, beidzot iekļaujas ikdienišķi materiāli, un, kā izstādes katalogā norāda Gaspare Luidži Markone, tie "aptver visu "realitāti", kas kļūst par "citu realitāti", kurai ir nozīme pašai par sevi, vienalga, vai tā ir dabiska vai mākslīga, ar sintētiskajām šķiedrām, truša spalvām, ūdeni uzsūcošu kokvilnu, plīšu, salmiem, polistirolu, bulciņām un akmeniem"⁶. Valodnieciski analizējot Manconi darbu nosaukumu novitāti, jaunais pētnieks uzsver saikni ar grieķu valodu, jo tajā ir grieķu *alpha privativum*, tātad Manconi radītais

The result of this collaboration between historical, theoretical research and practical knowledge is a chronological line that helps us to understand an intense artistic evolution that vanished in a very short period. At the beginning of the exposition viewers come into contact with Manzoni's early works, which he created immediately after interrupting his university studies to become an artist (1956–1957). This series contains abstractionist works in oils, mainly in dark tones, made partly in the dripping (drip) technique, by squashing items into the paint or now and then writing something over the top. The next series, which was created in 1957, shows a clear Pittura Nucleare² influence – the works are created from tar, oil, stones or nails with a variety of supporting materials: on paper, canvas or masonite (veneer). In these creations, which remind us vaguely of lyrical abstractionist trends, the gesture prevails over the represented content. Manzoni himself comments on this: "When the gesture has passed by, the resulting art-piece documents that an artistic fact has happened."³ Memories about abstract expressionist painting method and Jackson Pollock's Action Painting vanish soon in favour of the next step, which places the concept and event at the forefront of Manzoni's concerns. This is revealed by Gualdoni's text in the *Piero Manzoni: Life and Works* exhibition catalogue: "Never again in my life I will produce paintings, I will only make events."⁴

Manzoni transferred his searches for the identity of the artwork from the surface to the object of the painting itself, in his expanded and articulated *Achromes* series, consisting of white paintings on which he worked from 1957 to 1962. Evidence of this is provided in the fact that all of the colours are reduced to just one – white – which accentuates the distancing of colour and its disappearance as an element of the painting's identity. The artist diverts our attention from colour as the carrier of meaning and as an artistic substance laid out on the surface and transfers it to the 'painting' as an object and, consequently, to the theme of the identity of the art work. In a similar way to the research on Action Painting and Colour Field Painting, which was taking place in the USA at the same time, Manzoni provided allusions to ideally boundless space with the white monochrome and the structure of the material that was repeated regularly. Even though Manzoni's white paintings have borders, their size is completely haphazard, as the achromatic (colourless) subject is really intended as an eternal repetition, ergo as a total space. Considering a picture as a boundless space, Manzoni clearly sided with the problem of spatialism addressed by Lucio Fontana, the great patron of young Milanese artists at that time. If Fontana cuts up a monochromatic canvas to make it perceive its spatiality, Manzoni alludes to the space's endlessness: "Why not free this surface then? Why not try to reveal the unbounded significance of a total space of a pure and absolute light?"⁵

A number of conceptual aspects appear in the catalogue, for example, there are powerful references to ancient and modern philosophy in Manzoni's oeuvre, which emphasise his classical educa-



Pjero Manconi. Olas skulptūra Nr. 21. Objekts /
Piero Manzoni. Egg Sculpture No 21. Object
5.7 x 8.2 x 6.7 cm
1960

Foto no publicitātes materiāliem / Publicity photo
Pateicība / Courtesy of the Fondazione Piero Manzoni and Gagosian Gallery

termins nozīmē "nekrāsains", jo alfa atceļ vārdu *chrōma*, proti, "krāsa", tātad "nekrāsains", tas ir, "bez krāsas".⁷ Atsauce uz grieķu valodu Marķones skatījumā liecina par atsauci uz pirmssokratiķiem un viņu pirmprincipa (gr. *archē*) meklējumiem.

Kad jautāju Rozālijai Paskalino di Marineo, vai šie jaunie pētījumi ļauj nolasīt Pjero Manconi darbus citādāk, atrast tajos citus akcentus, viņa atbild: "Protams, tur ir dažādas idejas, bet arī Flaminio apcerē piedāvā mums lasījumu, kas atšķiras no galvenajās līdz šim rīkotajās izstādēs proponētā. Piesaiste klasiskajām studijām īpaši aktualizējusies pēc iepriekš nepublicētas 1954.–1955. gada dienasgrāmatas publikācijas⁸ un izpētes, tātad ir atklāta arī filozofiskāka saikne no jaunā Manconi līdz pat vēlākiem darbiem un tiek novilkts precīzāks pavediens, kas iezīmē sākotnējos aktīvos jēdzienus. Šī saikne ir parādījusies pēdējos gados, pateicoties tam, ka veikti jauni pētījumi."

"Ahromās" ir pētīts mākslas darba identitātes "minimālais kopums", bet kartona cilindros sarullētie un noslēptie tīstokļi materializē laiktelpu kā gigantisku *timeline*. Ar šo gājenu Pjero

tion, and this is possibly a little known fact, even if there are implicit philosophical references in his works. In his essay "Achromes – Linguistic-Philosophical Hypothesis", the young art historian Gaspare Luigi Marcone points out Manzoni's classical studies and philosophical orientation – he had read Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre and had enrolled in an ancient and theoretical philosophy course at the University of Rome, which he later abandoned so that he could devote himself fully to art.

In the white paintings, the *Achromes*, which were initially created with chalk and later simply with clay on simple or heated canvas, everyday materials are finally incorporated, and, as Marcone underlines in the exhibition catalogue, they "embrace all of 'reality', which becomes a 'different reality', which has significance in itself, no matter whether it is natural or artificial, with synthetic fibres, rabbit fur, water-absorbent cotton, velvet, straw, polystyrene, buns and stones."⁶ Linguistically analysing the novelty of the titles of Manzoni's works, the young researcher emphasises their connection with the



Pjero Manconi. Linija 7200 m. Objekts /
Piero Manzoni. Line 7200 m. Object
96 x 66 cm
1960

Foto no publicitātes materiāliem / Publicity photo
Pateicība / Courtesy of the Heart, Herning Museum of Contemporary Art

Manconi iziet no glezna telpas, nonākot trīsdimensionalitātē un integrējot mākslā laika jēdzienu. Iecere – tā arī neīstenota – bija savākt visus šos tīstokļus un aprakt tos dažādās pilsētās, tādējādi ar tiem apņemot visu zemeslodzi.

Pēdējos darbos bieži vien pašironiskā manierē uzsvērta mākslinieka dalība un mītrade. Mākslinieka un mākslas darba identitāte saplūst, darbs ir kā mākslinieka ķermeņa organiska sastāvdaļa, pircējs vairs nepērk "Manconi darbu", bet gan pašu "Manconi", kā to izstādes katalogā uzsver Flaminio Gvaldoni.⁹

Tā "Mākslinieka elpa" (*Fiat d'artista*) ir jau saplaci balons, kurā savulaik bija mākslinieka elpa. Tas piestiprināts pie koka pamatnes. "Olas skulptūra" (*Uovo scultura*) ir koka kastītē saglabāta ola ar mākslinieka pirkstu nos piedumu. Pēdējā izstāde Milānas galerijā *Azimuth* Pjero Manconi aicināja apmeklētājus "aprīt mākslu", piedāvājot apēst vārītas olas ar viņa pirksta nos piedumu. Jau minētais, plašai publikai vislabāk pazīstamais darbs "Mākslinieka sūdi" tātad ir tikai loģisks lietu dabiskā plūduma turpinājums. Mākslinieka

Greek language, as they contain the Greek *alpha privativum*; therefore, the term created by Manzoni means 'colourless', as *alpha* annuls the word *chrōma*, namely, 'colour' (...), therefore 'colourless', that is, 'without colour'.⁷ The reference to the Greek language in Mancone's point of view provides evidence about a reference to the pre-Socratics and their searches for the original principle (Gr. *archē*) and indicates Manzoni's search for the original pictures.

When I asked Rosalia Pasqualino di Marineo whether this new research allows one to read Manzoni's works in a different way, to find different accents in them, she answered: "Of course, there are differing ideas, but Flaminio's essay also offers us a reading that differs from the main one proposed in exhibitions that have taken place up till now. The connection with Classical studies was updated in particular after the publication and study of the artist's previously unpublished 1954–1955 diary.⁸ Consequently, a more philosophical link has been revealed from the young Manzoni right up until his later works, and a more accurate thread is drawn, which marks the initial concepts active in the underground. This connection has appeared in recent years, due to the fact that new research has been undertaken."

If the *Achromes* study the artwork's identity in a minimal way, the lines rolled up and hidden in cardboard cylinders materialise space and time as a gigantic timeline. With this stroke, Manzoni exits the space of the painting, arriving at three-dimensionality and integrating the notion of time into art. The aim – which remained unrealised – was to collect all of these cylinders and to bury them in various cities, thereby encircling the earth.

The latest works emphasise the artist's participation and myth, often enough in a self-ironic manner. The identity of the artist and the art work merge, and the artwork presents an organic component of the artist's body. The buyer no longer purchases 'Manzoni's work', but rather 'Manzoni' himself, as is emphasised by Gualdoni in the exhibition catalogue.⁹

The *Artist's Breath* (*Fiat d'artista*), which once contained the artist's breath, is already a deflated balloon attached to a wooden base. *Egg Sculpture* (*Uovo scultura*) is an egg with the artist's fingerprints on it kept in a little wooden box. In the last exhibition of the Azimuth Gallery in Milan 1960, Manzoni invited visitors to 'eat art', offering boiled eggs with his fingerprint on them to be consumed. So, the *Artist's Shit* mentioned previously, which is his best known work among the wider public, is therefore just a logical continuation, the natural flow of things. Waste from the artist's organism – it's hard to find something of less value – is preserved in a vacuum in a food can, and its price can be compared to that of gold, which is the benchmark of what is valuable (700 lire per gram).

In *Magic Base* (*Base magica*) and *Le socle du monde*, in a Duchamp-style gesture, it is the artist who decides what to place on the art pedestal: people or even the whole planet.¹⁰ Anybody who stands on the wooden pedestal, by definition, becomes a work of art. In 1961, Manzoni began to sign women as living sculptures. He



Pjero Manconi. Maģiskā pamatne – dzīvā skulptūra
Objekts /
Piero Manzoni. Magic Base – Living Sculpture
Object
60 x 79.5 x 79.5 cm
1961

Foto no publicitātes materiāliem / Publicity photo
Pateicība / Courtesy of the Fondazione Piero Manzoni and Gagosian
Gallery

organisma atkritumi – grūti atrast ko vēl nevērtīgāku – ir saglabāti vakuumā skārda kārbā, un to cena ir pielidzināta zelta cenai, kas ir vērtības etalons (700 liru par gramu).

Dišāna stila žestā ar darbiem "Maģiskā pamatne" (*Base magica*) un *Le socle du monde*¹⁰ mākslinieks nolemj uz mākslas pjedestāla novietot cilvēkus vai pat visu planētu. Ikvieni, kurš nostāsies uz koka pjedestāla, pēc definīcijas kļūs par mākslas darbu. 1961. gadā Pjero Manconi sāk parakstīt apstiprinājumus ar modeļiem kā dzīvām skulptūrām. Tiem, kas uzkāpj uz maģiskās pamatnes, viņš izsniedz parakstītu apliecinājumu uz iepriekš nodrukātas veidlapas, ar to pasludinot viņus par dzīvajām skulptūrām.

Pjero Manconi ir atstājis neskaitāmas nepabeigtas idejas, tik pēkšni un negaidot aizejot no mums trīsdesmit gadu vecumā 1963. gadā. Daudzus gadus pirms instalāciju nokļūšanas mākslas panorāmā Kremonā dzimušais mākslinieks spēja dabūt gatas "Ahromas", kurās veselas telpas piepilda balti vai fluorescejošas krāsas audekli. "Tūlītējos projektos" (*Progetti immediati*), kas publicēti žurnālā Zero Diseldorfā (1961. gada 3. numurā), viņš solīja uzbūvēt "pneimatiski pulsējošu sienu un griestus", kā arī ierīcot kādā parkā "mežīnu no pneimatiskiem cilindriem, kas pagarināsies kā kolonnas". Viņš gribēja eksponēt "miroņus", kas tiktu saglabāti "caurspīdīgos plastikātā blokos", kā arī radīt "mākslinieka asiņu pialu".¹¹

Rozālija Paskalino di Marineo stāsta: "No dienasgrāmatas uzzinājām, ka Pjero Manconi pavisam jauniņš ar autostopu pārvietojās pa Ziemeļeiropu ar vēlmi visu pētīt. Tai laikā tā nemaz nebija tik parasta lieta – ķemt un braukt. Un nudien pēc tam mēs māksliniekā Manconi atrodam vēlmi iepazīt un pastāstīt, kas ir ārpusē. Patiesi, Manconi bija

handed out written confirmations on previously printed forms to those who climbed onto the magic base, in this way declaring them to be living sculptures.

Manzoni left behind countless unrealised ideas before leaving us so unexpectedly at twenty-nine years of age in 1963. Many years before the arrival of installations on the art scene, the Cremona-born artist imagined extending the principle of *Achromes* all over in an entire space, filling it with white or fluorescent-coloured canvas. In *Immediate Projects* (*Progetti immediati*), which was published in *Zero* magazine in Düsseldorf (1961, issue no. 3), he planned to construct a "pneumatic pulsating wall and ceiling" as well as set up in a park a "little forest of pneumatic cylinders, which would extend themselves like columns". He also wanted to exhibit "corpses of dead persons" that would be preserved in "transparent plastic blocks" as well as create a "phiale of artist's blood".¹¹

In his last years, frequent trips gained more and more importance in Manzoni's life; a restless soul, he built up a network of exchange and dialogue with artists all over Europe. Marineo states: "From his diaries we found out that Manzoni hitchhiked across Northern Europe at a very young age with the desire to study everything. That wasn't a very usual thing at the time, to just get up and travel. And indeed, afterwards, in Manzoni the artist we find the desire to get to know and tell about what is on the outside. He perceived Milan as too straight and just needed to leave all the time. It's true, Manzoni was a very good manager and was very capable in maintaining his contacts and also in the manner in which he handled relationships. Although he was conscious that his research was soli-

loti spējīgs savā kontaktu uzturēšanas un attiecību kopšanas manierē, viņš mēģināja radīt savveida radniecīgu ideju tīklu. Šeit jāmin vēl viena svarīga lieta: Manconi patiesībā vienmēr uzturēja viņa gīmene, protams, viņu neapbēra ar zeltu, tomēr viņš varēja atļauties celot, kamēr citiem tai pašā laikā nācās strādāt un pelnīt sev iztikas līdzekļus.”

Runājot par attiecību lomu Pjero Manconi dzīvē – neraugoties uz viņa vientulīgo *modus operandi*, izstādes katalogā Frančeska Pola (*Francesca Pola*) uzsver, ka līdztekus daudzajiem ceļojumiem viņš ir nodarbojies ar paša pārvaldītiem projektiem. 1959. gadā Manconi kopā ar Enriko Kastellani (*Enrico Castellani*) dibina galeriju un žurnālu *Azimuth*, kur noris domu apmaiņa, diskusijas par jēdzieniem un visas Eiropas mākslinieku darbiem. Frančeska Pola to raksturo šādiem vārdiem: “Dališanās un komunikācija, doma un rīcība, attiecību mirklīgums: Manconi fiziski un metaforiski pārvietojas šajās koordinātās no viena Eiropas gala līdz otram (...). Tātad Manconi loti nozīmīga ir fiziskā vai ideālā “geogrāfija”, lai definētu iespējamo Eiropas mākslas kartogrāfiju: tas ir neparasti rosīgs jaunrades laiks (...).”¹²

Pēc Rozālijas Paskalino di Marineo vārdiem spriežot, mēģinājums izveidot tīklu (*network*) ar citiem amata brāļiem ir tikai dabisks: “Varbūt viņš devās meklēt vietas, kur viņa darbu novērtēs un sapratis. Jāatceras, ka tajos laikos vēl nepastāvēja skaidra mākslas institucionālā sistēma, tātad nevar teikt, ka viņa māksla būtu īsts “uzbrukums” tai. Bet viņš noteikti meklēja savu telpu. Ja esošie galeristi mūs nepieņem, tad mēs cenšamies atvērt pašu galeriju.”

Tik daudzi jauni mākslinieki pēc Pjero Manconi ir intuitīvi aizgājuši pa viņa ceļu, proti, nēmuši likteni savās rokās un izveidojuši pašu pārvaldītas struktūras. Kremonas mākslinieks, kas kā mākslinieks izaudzis Milānā 20. gadsimta 50. gados un 60. gadu sākumā, ir nobruģējis ceļu nākamo paaudžu māksliniekiem. Uz Manconi pjedestāla stāv mūsdieni māksla – viņa pravietiskais darbs neapšaubāmi pelnījis vairāk uzmanības un pamatīgākus pētījumus.

No itāļu valodas tulkojis Dens Dimiņš

1 Piero Manzoni 1933–1963: Catalogo della mostra a Palazzo Reale. Milano: Skira, 2014, p. 100. – Šeit un turpmāk – autore piezīmes, ja nav norādīts citādi.

2 “Kodolglezniecība” (itāļu val.) – izstādes nosaukums. Izstādi 1950. gadā Milānā rīkoja aktīvās kustības Arte Nucleare (“Kodolmāksla”) dalībnieki Enriko Bajs (*Enrico Baj*) un Serdžo Dandželo (*Sergio Dangelo*). Šī kustība savā manifestā atteicās no “ismsiem”, iestājās pret mākslas akademizēšanos, sludināja formu izjukšanu, patiesības atrāšanos kodolā: “Patiessība jums nepieder, tā atrodas atomā. ‘Kodolglezniecība’ dokumentē šīs patiesības meklējumus.” No: *Manifesto della Pittura Nucleare*. – *Tulk. piez.*

3 Piero Manzoni 1933–1963, p. 67.

4 Turpat, 15. lpp.; viņu citē Gastone Novelli darbā *Frammento*, kā arī *Gli scritti* (*Grammatica*, Nr. 5, Maggio, 1976).

5 Turpat, 71. lpp.

6 Turpat, 32. lpp.

7 Turpat.

8 *Diario*. Ed. G. L. Marcone. Milano: Electa, 2013.

9 Piero Manzoni 1933–1963, p. 22.

10 Pasauļes pamatne, pasaules pjedestāls (franču val.) – *Tulk. piez.*

11 Piero Manzoni 1933–1963, p. 164.

12 Turpat, 46.–47. lpp.

tary, he knew that a network of ideas was very useful. Here, something important should be mentioned as well: in reality Manzoni was always supported by his family. Obviously, he wasn't rolling in money, but he could afford to travel while others at that time had to work and earn their livings.”

Speaking about the role of relationships in Manzoni's life, in the exhibition catalogue Francesca Pola emphasises that despite his solitary modus operandi, he worked with other artists on projects that he managed himself, in addition to his many travels. In 1959, Manzoni founded a gallery and magazine, *Azimuth*, together with Enrico Castellani in which an exchange of ideas and discussions about concepts and the works of artists from throughout Europe took place. Pola describes it in these words: “Sharing and communication, idea and action, the fleetingness of relationships: Manzoni physically and metaphorically moved around this grid, from one end of Europe to the other (...). Therefore, the physical or ideal “geography”, to define the possible cartography of European art, was very important to Manzoni: this is an unusually active period of creative work (...).”¹²

In the words of Rosalia Pasqualino di Marineo, his attempt to create a network with other exponents of his trade was only natural: “Maybe he went off to find places where his work would be valued and understood. We should remember that in those times a clear institutional art-system did not yet exist, therefore it couldn't be said that his art was a real 'attack' on it. But he certainly was looking for his space. If existing gallery owners don't accept us, then we try to open our own gallery.”

So many young artists after Manzoni have intuitively followed his path, namely, taken fate into their own hands and created structures that they control on their own. The Cremona artist, who grew up as an artist in Milan in the 1950s and early 1960s, paved the way for the next generation of artists. Contemporary art stands on Manzoni's pedestal – his prophetic work undoubtedly merits wider attention and more serious research.

Translator into English: Uldis Brūns

1 Piero Manzoni 1933–1963: Catalogo della mostra a Palazzo Reale. 2014. Milano: Skira, p. 100. Here and furthermore – the author's notes, unless otherwise specified.

2 In Italian, “Nuclear Painting” – the name of an exhibition in Milan in 1950 that was organised by Enrico Baj and Sergio Dangelo, participants in the *Arte Nucleare* (“Nuclear Art”) movement. In its manifesto, this movement rejected “isms”, stood against the academifying of art, and declared the breaking down of form and the finding of truth in the nucleus: “The truth doesn't belong to you, it is found in the atom. ‘Nuclear Painting’ documents this search for truth.” From: *Manifesto della Pittura Nucleare*. (Translator's note)

3 Piero Manzoni 1933–1963, p. 67.

4 Ibid. p. 15. He is referred to by Gastone Novelli in the work *Frammento* as well as in *Gli scritti* (*Grammatica*, No. 5, Maggio, 1976).

5 Ibid. p. 71.

6 Ibid. p. 32.

7 Ibid. p. 32.

8 *Diario*. Ed. G. L. Marcone. Milano: Electa, 2013.

9 Piero Manzoni 1933–1963, p. 22.

10 In French, “foundation of the world”, “pedestal of the world”. (Translator's note)

11 Piero Manzoni 1933–1963, p. 164.

12 Ibid. pp. 46–47.