

Nunzio Di Stefano

(Cagnano Amiterno, L'Aquila, 1954)

The works of Nunzio Di Stefano are capable of stimulating the imagination but intentionally resist a reading that confines them to an interpretation that is narrative, associative, or metaphorical in nature. Active witnesses to the processes that generate them, the artist's works are often tied with the idea of transformation and change, and include the temporal dimension in their physical presence. While in his early pieces, Nunzio mainly used plaster, the artist's career is characterized by a wide-ranging freedom in the choice of materials – including clay, metal, and wood – and a total openness toward various working methods, both mechanical and chemical, consistent with linguistic choices that go beyond the specificity and distinction between painting and sculpture.

In *Luogo (Place)*, 1993, the artist utilizes processes of combustion to establish a dialogue with the wood employed. The technique turns the totality of the forms that make up the work into a sort of dense and compact block. As the artist explains, regarding his use of fire, “the color that is created is, in reality, a non-color: the result of an impossible union.” Searching for a synthesis between apparently irreconcilable opposites, the work appears like a fossil that reveals to viewers its capacity to include the memory of the past and the prediction of the future.

Sculptural presences that live in the space, the artist's works also insert their propensity for principles of transformation into the places for which they are created. *Untitled*, 2003-2004, is formed from a series of curved wooden elements, not unlike large vertebrae. Installed on opposite walls from which they project outward to form an aerial corridor, the elements articulate a dynamic sequence whose form is modified depending on the observer's viewpoint and on the velocity or slowness of the glance. The work thus becomes a catalyst that involves both those who encounter it and the surrounding architecture in a dimension in continuous mutation.

(MB)