

Olafur Eliasson

(Copenhagen, 1967)

The subjectivity of each visitor is at the center of Olafur Eliasson's work. The artist often refers to his pieces as "machines," meaning that the true work of art is the product of the encounter between the objects the artist physically arranges and the uniqueness of the individuals who perceive them.

Your circumspection disclosed, 1999, was developed specifically for a room with a large, semi-circular window at Castello di Rivoli. The work is articulated in two spaces separated by a wall, which in turn is pierced by a small hole. Depending on the intensity of the natural light, the first space functions as an accessible camera obscura. Upon entering the second space, visitors encounter the apparatus that has produced the projected image. It unites the window with a semi-elliptical mirror, positioned parallel to the floor. The projected image is thus revealed to be the result of the juxtaposition of the portion of landscape visible from the window and the portion reflected by the mirror. Seen from close up, the reflective surface of the mirror is ready to receive the image of each visitor who approaches, changing continuously.

In his works, Eliasson leaves visible the constituent elements and mechanisms, inviting the public to question the modalities of vision thus obtained. In *The sun has no money*, 2008, the artist utilizes two light projectors, focusing their powerful beams on a series of rings made of acrylic material. Operated by a motor, these rings project their shadow, in the form of mobile rings of colored light, in the exhibition space. The resulting dynamic effect turns the space into an enveloping and slightly hypnotic environment, where even the marking of time and its perception become an object of reflection. (MB)