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PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS

European Society for Aesthetics
in cooperation with Slovenian Society of Aesthetics,
Alma Mater Europea Institutum Studiorum Humanitatis
and Alma Mater Europea Evropski center Maribor

ART AND LIFE

10th EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR AESTHETICS CONFERENCE 2018

Location:
Alma Mater Europaea – European Center
Maribor, Slovenia

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Marta Benenti, Giovanna Fazzuoli

Experiencing the Making Paintings by Paolo Cotani, Marcia Hafif and Robert Ryman

In our talk we try account for the phenomenally rich experience of paintings displaying an extremely limited range of chromatic and formal features. On the basis of a phenomenological examination of the paintings' fruition that relies on a gestaltic perspective, we develop a simulative account of the creative gesture. For this purpose, we consider few specific, abstract works by artists Paolo Cotani, Marcia Hafif and Robert Ryman, dating back to the early 1970s. This choice proves to be particularly advantageous on two counts. First, the focus on abstract painting allows reducing the amount of variables that might be deemed responsible for what is experienced in paintings. Far from impoverishing the beholder's experience, we argue that perceptual features so-organized can trigger her imaginative engagement, allowing for an enhanced fruition. Second, by considering specific contemporary artworks in details and within their theoretical framework, we offer a perspective on their fruition that is as consistent as possible with their historical value and the creative intentions of the painters. As a general aim, drawing both on philosophy and on art history, our interdisciplinary approach wishes to do justice to artists', art critics' and historians' theoretical framework, as well as to the observer's phenomenal experience.