

Cabbage, shot 3

'Cabbage, shot 3', the photo illustrating the conference leaflet, by Italian artist Caterina Saban, was part of a set of pictures of the exhibition "Fantastiche molecole" (held in Milan, at the galleria Studio Gariboldi in 2005).

The picture represents, in its natural state, and through a magnified macro-photo, a cabbage leaf. But as observers, we get the impression of entering the molecular level of nature, the non-visible reality beyond the ordinary one.

Caterina Saban's work evidences the idea of art as a form of knowledge in which both the natural and the human world is the point of departure for creating a new articulation of vision. The Author gives life to an object that loses its old identity and acquires a new one based on different visions of its form. "The leaves of the green cabbage acquire a transparent light that is not ordinarily visible and the matter of the leaves becomes gaseous, reminding one of water enveloping all the realm of the living." (S. Santacatterina)

Increasingly science and art (SciArt) find themselves collaborating in sharing their different forms of creativity.

'Cabbage shot 3' is also a poetic metaphor for what has happened in the encounter between new technologies and the food sector. Ordinary, daily food is seen in a new light, while newly invented nutritional components appear and reshape the existing foodscape. Also, the marvelous, the promising, and the potentially dangerous appear blurred. Knowledge and traditions, information and trust become intertwined and co-produced.

All these new orders of food realities are at the same time embedded in descriptive and normative dimensions. The novel molecular and nano-shapes of food evoke and involve new regulatory frameworks. Knowledge-based societies feel the need to re-frame their social and normative systems according to their changing view of the world. Fantasy and creativity are also pervading the social and legal dimensions as citizens, institutions, and experts engage in new dialogues.

Caterina Saban

Caterina Saban was born in Milan, where she attended the Faculty of Philosophy and worked as a photo-reporter and a movie critic. She collaborated with the magazine *Scena*, with Studio Alchimia, and with the Società della Festa, where she started deepening her analysis of the relationships among food, images, and cultures. In 1988 she moved to London. Here she attended the Chelsea College of Art, and she graduated in Fine Arts at Middlesex University. In 1995 she proposed her first installations.

Since 1998 she lives in Milan, where she is continuing her artistic activity. Among her exhibitions, besides "Fantastiche molecole" (Francesca Pasini cur.): Photocalbio festival - Just around the corner, (Marco De Logu cur.) (2009); "Un grado dopo l'altro" White Star Adventure, Salone del Mobile, Milan (2008); "Foto e installazioni," Milano (Marco Meneguzzo cur.) (2002). For the Regione Lombardia she has published some booklets on food education.