Presentation

by Deianira Amico

Dreams, as operators of transitions, translations, and transformations, belong to our experiences of meaning. Therefore, the theme does not concern only visual arts but also other arts and other cognitive and cultural fields. This issue gathers contributions from the “Aesthetic Conversations” on “art and dream” held between March and May 2023 at the Fondazione Corrente, along with selected papers from a call for papers.

The main section’s contributions include, in the first part, articles analyzing the influence of dreams in literature through studies ranging from antiquity to modern times: Anna Beltrametti explores the works of Hesiod and Lucian, demonstrating how the role of rêverie helps to understand the function of poetic language in ancient works; Francesca Calabi analyzes two interpretations of the dreams of the patriarch Joseph, highlighting the function of message/journey towards new forms of knowledge; Sotera Fornaro dedicates a piece to interpretations of the myth of Endymion in Hölderlin’s poetry, emphasizing the theme of awakening; Maria Maletta focuses on analyzing the functions of dreams in the myth of Iphigenia in Tauris; Sabrina Peron writes about Achilles’ dream in the Iliad as a moment to preserve humanity from the destruction of violence.

The second part features philosophical explorations of the concept of dreams conducted by authors in various fields: Annalaura Ferrara, starting from Freudian reflections on dreams, analyses the articulation of a symptomatic writing of the image; Monica Luchi dedicates her work to the relationship between dream and drawing from a psychoanalytic perspective; Cristina Muccioli explores the narrative device of the dream in the thought of paleoanthropologist Giorgio Manzi; Andrea Oppo analyzes how Florensky uses the dream to explore the relationships between art, science, and symbol.
The third part contains articles exploring dream themes in the arts, beginning with modern and contemporary visual arts: Deianira Amico dedicates an analysis to the poetic and political significance of the iconography of the sleeping figure in Italian art between the two world wars; Silvana Borutti explores the threshold dimension of the dream between visible and invisible in the work of Giancarlo Consonni; Simone De Maio focuses on the sequential dimension of dream in Tiger Tateishi work, between art and comics. Moreover, articles include other art forms: in music, Tiziana Canfori introduces the vast world of Schubert’s Lieder, where the dream is a pulsating element linked to romantic aspects. Finally, how cinema interprets the dream: Lucia Ferrario compares Scorsese and Fassbinder, while Elena Dagrada focuses on early cinema, permeated with magical images that, in some cases, may even assume the same objective physical quality.

The special contributions section offers reflections and studies on various themes ranging from philosophy, literature, and art history to current affairs: Silvana Borutti outlines the non-systematic but rich in philosophical and poetic images thought of Romano Romani; María Elena Ojea Fernández provides a reading on the theme of the instant in the poetic work of Francisco de La Torre; Leonardo Masone shows how Guercino put the language of art at the service of the political dream of building a new Christian society, distant from Protestant heresies; Giorgio Rizzo dedicates a reading to the theme of art according to Goodman, while Gianni Trimarchi traces Spinozian influences in Vygotsky’s thought. Finally, Simonetta Sanna dedicates a piece to Hans Keilson’s work with a perspective on themes of peace, while Daniela Scotto di Fasano reflects on how to think about the dramatic events happening in the Middle East, revisiting the question “what is human”.

The bookmark section contains a dialogue between Gabriele Scaramuzza and Angelo Gaccione, starting from the latter’s book titled La mia Milano.

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