

MAURIZIO NANNUCCI

Opening on Saturday, 27th January 2018 at 6 PM
26th January – 20th March 2018

MAURIZIO NANNUCCI (*1939 Florence) will be celebrating his 80th birthday in 2019. In anticipation of this occasion we are presenting four new light art installations the artist has created especially for the gallery:

MOVING BETWEEN DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES AND OPEN SINGULARITIES

is set circularly in neon lettering up on the wall with a diameter of 250 centimetres. The artist describes the circle as a self-contained shape: precise and definite. Hitherto, **MAURIZIO NANNUCCI** has rarely used the circular form in his oeuvre: the most prominent example is the "Blue Ring" in the German parliament's library in Berlin. The circular text-design refers to thoughts of Hannah Arendt, contrary to our exhibition where the artist works with his original wording.

In contrast to the work's solemn design stands the ease and the broad possibility of interpretation of the word. **MAURIZIO NANNUCCI** combines thought-provoking impulses, philosophical ideologies, poetry and artistic clairvoyance in his messages. When asked about their meaning, he describes them as "open structures" the viewer should and must find personal associations to. "Compared to the diffuse extension of light, the meaning of the texts are highly focused. Words are tremendously graphic: as images of thoughts, as delusions, as picture riddles and as ideals, they keep our thoughts moving. They appeal to our emotions and convey a sensuous experience. Beyond their specificity and their interpretability words are also always a manifest to the inexpressible", the artist explains in an interview with art historian Gabriele Detterer.¹

MAURIZIO NANNUCCI predominantly works in English, it being a universally understood language. It is a neutral means to express the semantic content. The concept of using letters and words as graphic set pieces that have the ability to repeatedly create new images, is one the artist has worked with since 1964. Inspired by concrete poetry he created square linguistic-images written by a typewriter. These works' focus were their visual appearance, since the combination of letters and words were not forming sense. From the late 1960s onwards though, his phrases and texts have contained messages. The writing's style implicates exact control of the room: surroundings and writing are closely linked. It seems impossible to see whether the writing moulds the room or the room evokes the articulation of the writing.

MAURIZIO NANNUCCI has repeatedly participated at the Venice Biennial and at documenta Kassel as well as at Biennals of São Paulo, Sydney, Istanbul and Valencia. In the summer of 2015 he was honoured with an exceptional solo exhibition at the MAXXI museum in Rome, spanning his entire career.

Salzburg, January 2018

Katja Mittendorfer