

LA FACCIATA (2017)

La Facciata is a multi-media photography, film and textile installation that examines the interior design of Villa Necchi Campiglio, a particular 1930s-era mansion located in central Milan, Italy and that is now a museum-house.

The 16mm film projection, mural and series of large-scale photographs examine the slippage in meaning between the personal narrative of the former sewing-machine industrialists that inhabited the building, the modernist decor of the villa, and its now designation as a public space and 'museum-house'. Villa Necchi Campiglio lies somewhere between former private residence and its current status as institutionalized space.

The overall project examines how this particular building design, symbolic of power and hierarchy, reflects upon a wider social landscape from a cinematic vantage point and how such a space succeeds or fails in describing the narrative of those that the house was once designed and built for.

La Facciata aims to create a filmic space that addresses the particular state of the inanimate in art, design and architecture where the subject/object represented transcends its basic form. During the 16mm film projection, the camera follows the caretaker of the museum-house as she dutifully dusts over the many furnishings, objects and statues that inhabit the residence.

The work ultimately points to a physical interaction of upkeep and maintenance that re-animates the inanimate. The interior of the house represents a fictionalized present insofar as only the furnishings remain to inform the viewer's imagination as to who once resided there. The camera lens serves as a kind of threshold to draw out and shape these questions.

Special Thanks: J-f Lesage, Bogdan Stoica, Fred St-Hilaire, Chloé Grondeau, Julia Autumn Savoy, Emili Dufour, Nicholas Pitre, Claude Fortaich, Noemie da Silva, Caroline Savaria, Thomas Kneubühler, Yan Giguère, Peter King, Natacha Chamko, Anne-Marie Groulx, Julie Simoneau, Yann Pocreau, Rina Sfalcin, Simone V., Stefania Peterlini, Diagonale, Atelier Clark, Centre SAGAMIE, L'imprimerie, centre d'artistes, Niagara Custom Lab, Maison des métiers d'art de Québec, Fondo Ambiente Italiano (FAI), British School at Rome, Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ).