

Adrian Paci

She

opening february 16, 7.00 pm

kaufmann repetto is glad to present *She*, a portfolio of 16 etchings by Adrian Paci.

Adrian Paci has many times drawn inspiration from a broad archive of vhs tapes shot in Albania in the early nineties, featuring different wedding celebrations.

His approach tends to distil those subjects and events appearing as marginal/peripheral, to create a series of hieratic and visionary images.

By selecting those otherwise imperceptible instants, Adrian Paci's gaze focuses on the margins of those rituals and gestures that seem to belong to a mythical past, suspended in a timeless dimension.

The genesis of the etchings series *She*, can be ascribed to this same process. In *She*, the movements of a woman's face enclosed in a short video sequence, are fixed and dilated into a succession of 16 acqua tinta etchings, through a keen play of lights and shadows marking and, at the same time, blurring the woman's features.

Being in the foreground with respect to the other people in the sequence, the woman seems to be alone: she appears as the only one noticing the camera, from which she gradually shrink by averting her gaze, therefore getting rid of the shadow that seems to transfigure her face.

The portfolio opens with the verses of an Albanian poetry by Ndre Mjeda, narrating the pain and the loneliness of a woman, *Lokja*. The words gathered in this composition resounds in the work as well, as if they were suggested by the protagonist of the etchings herself, creating a contrast between the atmosphere of the wedding celebration and a sense of isolation and caducity.

The minimum variation between each photogram of the video sequence, is emphasized by the nature of the etching process itself, where each touch of artist corresponds to an infinitesimal but sensible variation. Each element of the series tells about a moment that would otherwise dissolve in time flow: doing so Adrian Paci highlights the value of the instant therefore introducing a significant reflection over the passage of time.

By generating a sort of slow-motion sequence, the artist transforms the concreteness of the woman's face into a solemn and abstract portray, therefore activating a dialogue between movement and stasis.