

Pulse of life

What is the essential characteristic of life?

The proliferation of “beings”, the inexhaustible movement of occupation of space, hits and misses in evolution, or the exhaustion in the chaos, in the disappearance of a species. The multiplicities of paths that develop in the entrails of living beings, absorptions and interstitial expansions, result in an architecture built on tension seeking stability in the forms, adaptation to the conditions of survival between apparently inert matter and the logic of nature.

What is the meaning of existing, when in appearance things remain stable and immobility is an end in itself? Yet, nothing is absolutely stable, not even in the physical properties of matter, and in living organisms time is inscribed as memory, mutations occur at every moment, a being is created at every instant, rearrangements happen as dynamics in transformations, and harmony exists only in appearance.

The sculptural work of Ilca Barcellos brings forth the inquietude implicit in biological processes, a metaphor for the challenge of life in opposing tacitly opposite materials, the soft of fabric meshes, the rough of metallic meshes; in clay, whose soul is argil, unctuous and malleable, subject to the unexpected in the brutal burning, hardening the form in a concentration of forces, in opposition to the steel wires, elasticity and hardness forged in the stretching and bonding of the labyrinth of the fibers of the meshes; in expanded polyurethane, as foam, a back and forth of primordial forces, ebb and flow worked out internally, a source of energy in continuous rebirth, crystallized at the moment of creation. However, the created form is united with the configuration, the interstitial matter is part of its ontogenesis, the visible responds to the processes that unfold in its interior. By adding ceramics and tissue, it joins initial activities that go back to the sedentarism and the human fixation on the place where one lives. Fernando Lindote, commenting on her work, said: it is an oblique reference to the condition of living beings in the chain of life.

Works of art pervaded by spiritual vitality by the force of expression, pregnant with intense life itself, we do not seek to identify them in biological records, they move in every sense, they immerse themselves in our reality, they are the very meaning of the effort of survival, they refer to the origins of oceanic life and to plant life, from the tranquility of a slow and steady rhythm to the contradictions of the attraction / repulsion for the unknown, perfect harmony among disparate materials, the malleable primeval clay of the Creator's dream, a mass moldable by the will, and the product of the man-made chemical industry, a material that expands uncontrollably like a pulsating life inside, an innate symbol of the sense of the numinous and the mystery of artistic creation, simplicity and complexity in the articulation of organic forms between living structures and in living, similarities glimpsed and rhythms intuited, decidedly penetrating space, in the true essence of the pulse of life.

The essence of a sculptor in the organic line, Ilca Barcellos creates the signs of hidden life in a single word: exist.

In: Caderno Anexo, Jornal ANotícia – 05/12/2013
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