

## ROGER WELCH

Opening on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2019, 6.30 pm



*Roger Welch, Edgar Allan Poe's Home, 2018, video 6'45", still from video*

**Opere Scelte** Gallery has the pleasure of inviting you, on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019** at 6.30 pm, in via Matteo Pescatore 11/D to the opening of the solo show by **Roger Welch**.

Encompassing video installation and photography, as well as works on paper and sculptures, the research of Roger Welch has been characterized since the 70<sup>s</sup> by conceptual art and performance, and the topics of identity and memory are constant and essential elements for understanding his work.

Welch is a pioneer of Video Art, Multi-Media Installation and Conceptual Narrative Art, also known as Story Art. In 1970 he became well-known for a series of family photographic works and memory maps stemming from the memories of elderly people. By means of video installations Welch was able to recreate the past of the characters involved, documenting the events and materialising their memories.

As part of his research on time, the exhibition at Opere Scelte gallery proposes the work *Edgar Allan Poe's Home* consisting of a series of watercolours and a video representing the house of the renowned writer, in the Bronx in New York, at the corner between Grand Concourse and Kingsbridge Road.

The video is a one-camera set up, taking place in a 24 hours time frame, a recurring practice in many of Welch's works. The image is specular, or rather a subdued horizontal line seams to mirror it creating a continuous panorama addressing the geographical limits of time. The video begins and ends with night lights and for all the duration of the video the passing of

time is perceived thanks to the background noises of the city and the breath of the artist beyond the camera.

Similarly tied to time and memories, the watercolour series on show represent a faithful rendering of 1800's tapestries present inside the house. These floral motifs are also linked with the memories of the artist and his family which, for three generations and in the span of 100 years, owned a shop selling colours and wallpapers. Thus, as through his first works, the memory and his personal story are source of inspiration and blend in the present. Besides this, Welch is a great admirer of Edgar Allan Poe, particularly of his tales about ante-mortem experiences and his studies of the cosmos.

The typical narration through images on show is as strong in the video as it is in the watercolours and the two media complete each other thanks to a game of references which the artist specially conceived for the Turin exhibition.

The exhibition will be open until March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Roger Welch** (1946, Westfield, New Jersey, USA)

Roger Welch is one of the founders of the Narrative Art movement along with John Baldessari, William Wegman and others. He is also a pioneer in exploring personal memory and identity as an art form.

His work has been exhibited in numerous museums and foundations all over the world: the Milwaukee Art Center (1974); Albright-Knox Gallery, Buffalo, New York (1977); Museo de arte moderno, Città del Messico (1980); Whitney Museum of American Art (1982). Among the main exhibitions in international institutions: Palais des beaux-arts, Bruxelles (1974); Whitney Museum (1977); Centre Georges Pompidou, Parigi (1980); New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York (1981); Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (1994); e Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai (2007). Welch lives and works in New York.

His works are included in many museum collections: Guggenheim Museum New York, Museum of Modern Art of New York, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Georgia Museum of Art, Musée de Saint-Étienne France and Tamayo Museum in Mexico City.