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Author: Alberto Burri

Title: Combustione Plastica

Year: 1967

Technique: Acrylic and burlap on canvas

Dimensions: 60x90 cm

Coefficient: 400

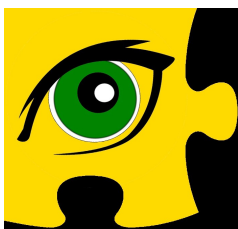
Combustione Plastica is an artwork made by Alberto Burri in 1967.

The plastic, which is burnt and wore out, transforms this work in an abject-something, a raped body, or a shard of flesh.

Elegant yet dramatic, this work perfectly embodies Burri's aesthetic.

Produced in 1967, Combustione Plastica is the study for the window of the Sion's Couvent des capucins, in Switzerland, designed by the Venetian architect Mirco Ravanne between 1964 and 1968.

At that time, the Sion's building-site attracted a massive number of experimental artists coming from all over Europe,



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from Kengiro Azuma to Antoni Tapies and Alberto Burri. Once part of the Mirco Ravanne's private art collection, Combustione Plastica is indeed enriched with a double historical value: not only does this artwork mirror one of the most complex and exciting periods within the history of Italian art, but it also frames one of the most intense stages of Alberto Burri's artistic career.

In his Combustioni series, which he started creating in the mid-fifties, Alberto Burri seems to reject any possibility of healing, as well as any traces of optimism: by burning papers, wood, plastic and iron, the artist deprives the artworks of its inner vitality.

In his Combustioni, the wounds remain open, differing from what happens in Sacks. As holes in within matter, these wounds are always raw: it is indeed impossible to heal them over.

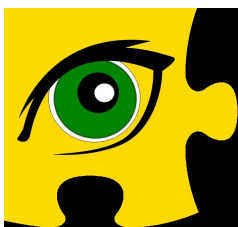
Light itself becomes a tool for healing. The wounds are not about death but instead, they are about surviving.

Combustione Plastica embodies all of this: framed into a rhomboidal shape, the work is defined by a strong compositional balance.

The holes and the gashes seem to adorn the artwork rather than martyrizing it. The burnings, which soil the canvas, seem to be painted rather than inflicted.

The uniqueness of this artwork lays in its inner paradox,

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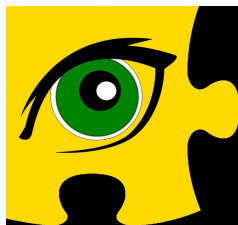
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i.e. in being in-between life and death, health and illness, optimism and nihilism.

For all these reasons, Combustione Plastica stands out as a masterpiece that is profoundly conceptual but also pragmatically ground-rooted.

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