HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

ANNE DE CARBUCCIA
The theme of Vanitas is one that figures heavily in 16th and 17th Century art. It is a composition - most often featuring an hourglass, a human skull and other organic elements - that serves to remind us of how ephemeral our existence is and how it is subject to the passage of time. Artists of the time admonished observers with the expression “memento mori”, suggesting that they should live humbly, remembering their human roots and the certainty of death. With the passing of the centuries the theme of the frailty and transient nature of life has not disappeared from the works of artists, but has been enriched through the appearance of other connotations.

The Franco-American environmental artist Anne de Carbuccia has made Vanitas her personal trademark through the expression of a message that is different to that of Caravaggio or Guercino. In her work the artist warns us of the inevitable ruin and destruction toward which our planet is heading. However, this warning is not intended to be gloomy and negative, rather it is a positive message suggesting that humanity makes good use of the time remaining by carrying out constructive actions in favour of people and the environment.

Through the One Planet One Future project, Anne de Carbuccia wants to draw world attention to hot topics such as water, endangered habitats and animal species and the disastrous effects that war and pollution are having on our world.
This is a 360-degree look at the great problems that are plaguing our planet and whose effects, like never before, are becoming to be part of our daily life.

She approaches the controversial issue of water from a number of points of view. The melting of the glaciers is approached together with the phenomenon of desertification, and the increasingly frequent number of floods worldwide are presented hand in hand with the drying up of the Dead Sea. As far as animals are concerned, the artist disturbs us with her shocking images and informs us that by 2020 the number of wild animals in existence will have been reduced by about one-third of the current estimate; a disconcerting fact that should make us think how to avoid the extinction of certain species.

Another subject which the photographer has been battling with for years is pollution and the creation of rubbish: she has travelled the whole world in order to see for herself how some places, which should be the most uncontaminated on the planet, are instead disfigured by plastic and waste. The issue of wars is widely investigated due to the damage they are causing to humanity: the problem of refugees fleeing the horrors of their countries and the innumerable tons of explosive materials left in different areas following war conflicts.

So Anne de Carbuccia descends into the depths of the Caribbean Sea to immortalize an extraordinary group of starfish that are becoming increasingly rare due to global warming and ocean acidification; she finds her in Antarctica, as she highlights the increasingly rapid melting of the glaciers is approaching together with the phenomenon of desertification, and the increasingly rare due to global warming and ocean acidification; we later find her in Africa, where she joins a group of Afragola activists to photograph a bonfire of the mountain over the years is pollution and the creation of rubbish: she has travelled the whole world in order to see for herself how some places, which should be the most uncontaminated on the planet, are instead disfigured by plastic and waste.

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However, these unhappy themes are represented through beautiful photographic images. As in a Tableau Vivant, the various issues are presented hand in hand with the drying up of the Dead Sea. As far as animals are concerned, the artist disturbs us with her shocking images and informs us that by 2020 the number of wild animals in existence will have been reduced by about one-third of the current estimate; a disconcerting fact that should make us think how to avoid the extinction of certain species.

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