

Presence, as a synthesis of a projected course of study which may serve as a starting point for an analytic study of our times articulated in differing areas of research and on diverse levels of interpretation. Presence as existence, participation, as event to be read as the history of a moment, a register of the passage of time, the dimensions of a place, a context or an emotion.

Let us reassume within these concepts a research itinerary pursued for many years with particular attention. We can examine the metro in Berlin, a symbolic 'no place' of our times which could have the function of a metaphor for observing the present and gazing beyond the horizon to the infinite limits of observable spaces. We may pause to examine our own contemporary period, with its protagonists and their behaviour, and we may explore their contradictions and their language, their emotive urges and their intellectual curiosity allowing ourselves to be drawn into an exploration of its diversity from every possible point of view. We may become listeners and interpreters in order to grasp their significance, their nature and their worth, enabling us to describe their constants, their values and their intensities. This can be done by using photography in order to connect, by experimental cutting, what we truly see within ourselves and thus construct our own dynamic message of fluctuating reflections which join together, in our mnemonic and emotional impulses in a linguistic pattern in which the traces of the present, studied dimly and made up of figurative utopias and vaguely-drawn outlines and of improbable forms, give place to a tense narrative account innervated by uncontrollable imperfections.

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The time of the event is the time in which the form lives in incommensurable space that annuls everything leaving, in the emptiness of our memories, recomposed images in a scansion which evidence the transient nature of sensations and of emotions which become confused with what appear to be permanent images, or truths written in every stable manifestation of experience. The tension between what passes and what remains, generates a state of fragile consciousness which seems to bring us near to a state of 'presence' as a unique and inviolable instant of lucid awareness of our existence. This eventuality constitutes that neutral entity which often confronts us in which are hidden fragments of authenticity which are profound because not contaminated 'a priori' by rules and models and because they are the constitutive element of the physical essence of every creative act.

Pier Paolo Fassetta.