

PIERO MANZONI AND ZERO

Video documentary, 52 mins.

Devised, written and edited by Francesca Pola

In collaboration with Fondazione Piero Manzoni

Realized by Zenit Arti Audiovisive

Executive producers: Thomas and Lisa Blumenthal

2018

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In the context of the ZERO-Weekend in Düsseldorf (18 - 20 October 2018)

Language: English, Italian and German versions with subtitles

The video documentary *PIERO MANZONI AND ZERO* present the richness and meaning of the artistic relationships in Europe, at the end of the 1950s and in the early 1960s, around the pivotal figure of Piero Manzoni.

One of the protagonists and catalysers of this revolutionary creative context moving beyond *Informel* into a new form of creativity, internationally known as the ZERO movement, Manzoni is the forerunner and unexhausted “travelling messenger” of a new geography of relations. His continuous journeys and activity mark a new transnational perspective: an alternative vision compared to North American art, but also dissimilar to the Parisian milieu. ZERO operates according to this new geography: it travels through Milan, Rome, Lausanne, Bern, Basel, Düsseldorf, Munich, Frankfurt, London, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Copenhagen and Zagreb. Following different lines and standards and producing a massive exchange of letters, works, exhibitions, publications. These artists established new creative and at the same time methodical guidelines, as well as new hubs and places that inexorably adopt such guidelines, thus amplifying and spreading their effects.

The video documentary is devised, written and edited by Francesca Pola in collaboration with Fondazione Piero Manzoni, and produced by Zenit Arti Audiovisive; executive producers: Thomas and Lisa Blumenthal. Core of the narrative are excerpts from interviews with several artists in the ZERO network: Heinz Mack, Otto Piene, Günther Uecker, and Bernard Aubertin, Agostino Bonalumi, Almir Mavignier, Christian Megert, François Morellet, Henk Peeters, herman de vries. Original soundtrack includes first recording of *A contemporary sound portrait of Piero Manzoni's Achrome* by Andrea Cavallari, performed by Ciro Longobardi.

The video documentary is distributed in a USB stick attached to the book by Francesca Pola *PIERO MANZONI AND ZERO. A European Creative Region*, Pesci Rossi, Electa, Milan, 2018 (English), 15 x 23, 150 pp., ill., paperback (English edition of the original Italian from 2014), available since October 2018.

Francesca Pola is an Italian art historian, curator, and writer, Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer, and teaches at Università Cattolica and IES Abroad in Milan. She has researched and written extensively about Italian and international art from the 1950s and 1960s, realizing seminal publications on Piero Manzoni, such as *Manzoni Azimut* (Gagosian Gallery, London and Fondazione Piero Manzoni, Milan, 2011), and *Una visione internazionale. Piero Manzoni e Albisola* (Pesci Rossi, Electa, Milan, 2013), among others. She is member in the Scientific Board of the ZERO foundation in Düsseldorf, since its founding. More at www.francescapola.it