

DIFFERENTE

CIAMPI EXHIBIT OPENS AT NYU

A multi-media art exhibit that attempts to distill feelings and messages into the simple language of icons and street signs opened last night at NYU's Casa Italiana.

The exhibition of work by Italian artist Antonia Ciampi, "Signs At Stake," consisted largely of "signs" - pieces that resembled standard warning signs containing a variety of messages and symbols.

"Imprevisti" (Unforeseen) displayed a man falling with an arrow next to him pointing down, while "Probabilita'" (Chance) features same man tripping forward. Each piece,, a combination of wood, foam, canvas and acrylic, looked like a green highway warning sign with the title in bold white letters across the bottom.

"They are unconventional messages displayed in a conventional manner," attendee Jared Hendrickson said.

"We're accustomed to viewing symbols in this form, just not the symbols [Ciampi] is conveying."

One work, "Non Solo... Pasta," consisted of the title in black letters and a paintbrush covered in pieces of pasta. Ciampi said the work addressed the typical perception many people have of Italians.

"When most people think of Italians, they think of pasta," Ciampi said. "And so this is saying, 'Hey, it's not only pasta.'"

In "Grandi Riflessioni," one of only a few pieces that were not signs, Ciampi covered dried leaves with glass and bound the piece with wire.

Ciampi also dabbled in performance art in the creation of several pieces. "Free," a fusion of random geometric shapes, was the result of Ciampi's work with a jazz musician.

"You start with a jazz standard, and then you have improvisation," Ciampi said in a mix of English and Italian. "This is the idea of jazz in a piece of art."

The "Art Of Moving" was created when Ciampi had a ballet dancer perform in the middle of a collection of Ciampi's work. Ciampi then drew images of the dancer on a large white palette "These are emotions that are largely personal, being" said Jennifer Krause, another attendee at publicized the opening "Viewing love or music the way you might view a stop sign is very striking."

The exhibition, which runs through Dec. 5, is free and open to the public.

Brandt Gassman
Assistant news editor