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## *The spell of wonder*

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Elisa Sighicelli's art possesses the magic of enchantment. It fascinates and seduces. It leaves you astonished and dreamy. Her works are such stuff as dreams are made on, and just like the dreams they come from a place which is elsewhere, and there they lead us. Composed of shadows and impalpable substances, such as air, dust and smoke, they are images of other images. Their prerogative is to reveal something that is already there, that is in front of us, but that only the artist can see. She proposes them to our gaze, and in the meantime she is no longer there; she has fled away, as impregnable as the images themselves.

In the works of Elisa Sighicelli the gesture of the artist seems almost absent. It seems that they were produced by themselves, generated by the encounter between a mirror surface and a fabric, a glass and a camera, an air bubble and a dripping of colour. The sign that the artist has impressed on it is minimal or missing. There is something fairy in the act that produced them, something magical, because you never see the presence of an action. The result is indefinable shadows kept in precious and light ampoules, in mirrors and reflections, in velvety fabrics, in transparent surfaces, in marble and adhesive tapes.

Elisa Sighicelli loves the magic of the ineffable, the suspended, the caressed. She probably loves the supernatural and the transcendent, and above all the miraculous, because every time she exhibits her works she repeats the prodigy of the elusive: everything she sees is there, before our eyes, and at the same time there is not: a deception of the senses, a wonderful deception that borders on illusion and fantasy. This is the very reality of her art.

Elisa Sighicelli's works are prodigies: marbles on which sculptures and images are silkscreened, light silks that collect the reflections of the windows, very fine glass surfaces that seem to have the thickness of the accumulation. In her works every form of density presupposes the subtlety of the film. They are layers of layers, until everything is lost in a depth without thickness or without distance. As in any magic everything appears, everything happens before our eyes, yet we can not grasp how it happened: there simply is. We are surprised and amazed.

Elisa Sighicelli possesses the gifts of fairies, of airborne beings, fast and elusive. Their ability consists in the touch, very light and prodigious; they possess the lightness of the butterfly wings. Their power is connected to the inscrutable order of destiny; they impersonate it with their own movements and gestures. They hold an unpredictable and immense power: dilating and shrinking, shrinking and swelling, transforming and switching. They act at a distance, like the images themselves.

Elisa Sighicelli works without words, without magic formulas, only with her touch. She makes what is not, and at the same time what might be; the images evoke seduction, the same captured in the anticipation of the work, in the intuition and in the palpating expectation of its making. Her works await our recognition. The spell consists in this form of attraction and enticement, like a fulfilled promise. Silks, glasses, marbles, fabrics, ribbons, and even nails, bewitch and captivate, circulate and attract. They possess the magnetism of the elusive, of the vaporous. These dreams are realized after having been dreamt of by the artist by day or by night. Evanescence is the most difficult thing to reproduce, because it belongs to the order of fantasy. Its solidity composes the very form of being.

Elisa Sighicelli's art possesses the gift of lightness; it is capable of dissolving the weight of the world around us, of making it light, of taking the works away from their own heaviness, of making them close to the lightness of thoughts that are by their nature airy and volatile, especially when they are intense and precise. As Italo Calvino wrote, we need the liveliness and mobility of the intelligence of artists, as well as writers and poets, to escape the condemnation of a world that around us insists on heaviness, enveloping our lives in a dense network of constraints. The art of Elisa Sighicelli dissolves the density of the world, hence it helps us to live the grace and beauty hidden in her works. An indispensable aid to disperse the melancholy of living.