

2021

Nel foro volano le api d'oro

AN INSTALLATION BY RAFFAELE CURI

RHINOCEROS™

Established in Roma by Alda Fendi

In the Torre dei Santi Luca e Martina
at the Roman Forum
via della Curia 4

The UN General Assembly decided to declare
20 May as World Bee Day, the aim being
to help preserve the existence of an insect
of vital importance for life on earth.

To mark this day, the Fondazione Alda Fendi -
Esperimenti is presenting its new artistic
experiment in the Torre dei Santi Luca e Martina
in the Roman Forum: the installation *Nel Foro
volano le api d'oro - Teocrito* [In the Forum Fly
Golden Bees - Theocritus] by the artist Raffaele
Curi, on view from 20 May to 21 June 2021.

Admission free. Two visitors may enter at a time.

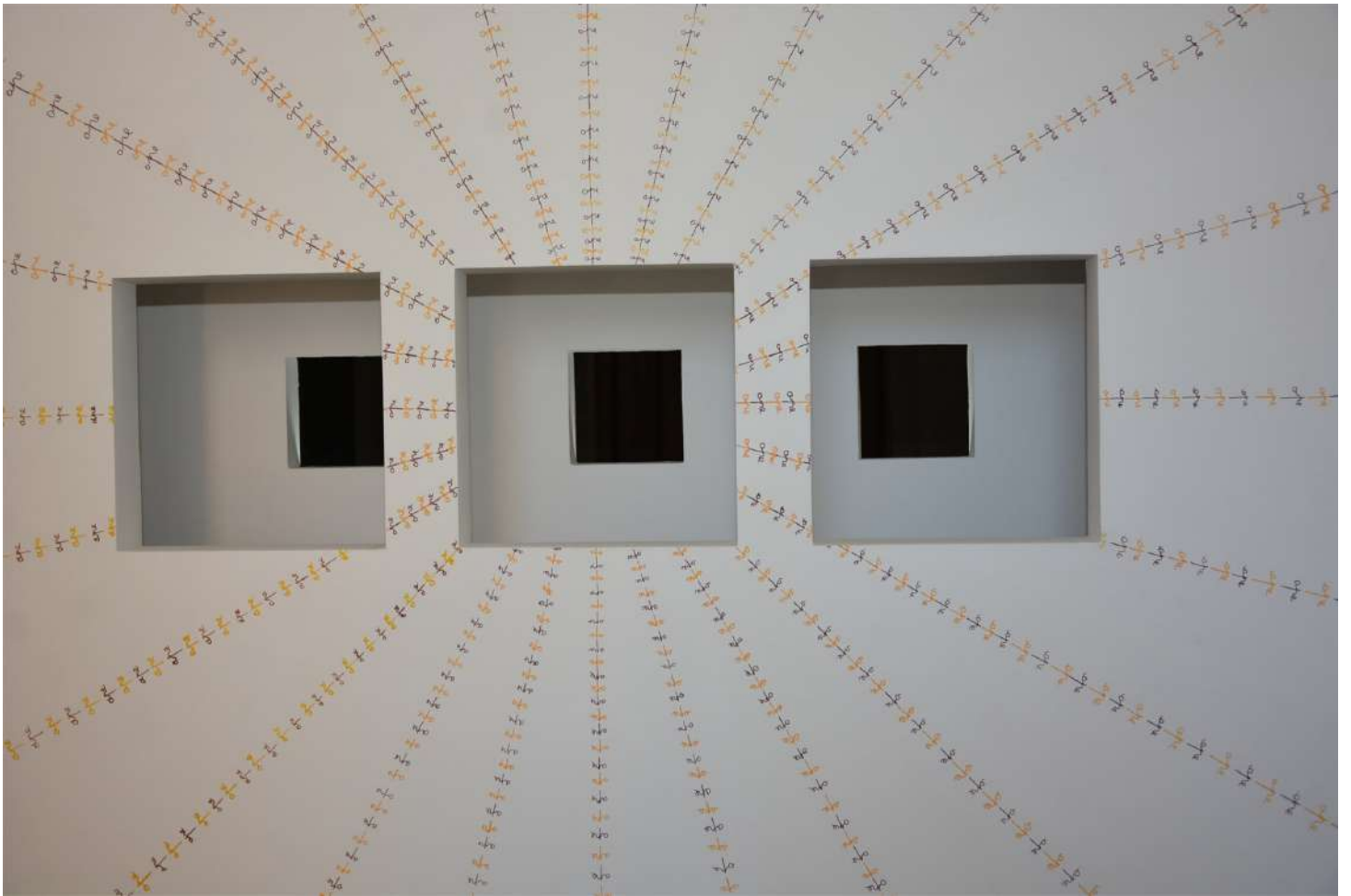
Rome 20 may - 21 june 2021



Bees are at the centre of the vision of Raffaele Curi, who illuminates with golden reflections one of the most beautiful places in the world - the heart of the Caput Mundi, among ancient remains testifying to the power of ancient Rome - in a dialogue with the Baroque of Pietro da Cortona, the architect who designed the church of Santi Luca e Martina in front of the Mamertine Prison where Saint Peter was once imprisoned.

A sense of sacredness pervades the entire installation, which collates photographs and images borrowed from art history, with a synchronic gaze so bold as to bring together different cultures and epochs and to erase any temporal distance. Visitors find themselves walking on a carpet of words moved by the breeze, while the air is filled with the song of bees, with their busy conversations, incomprehensible to us and yet pervaded by a hypnotic and profound musicality.

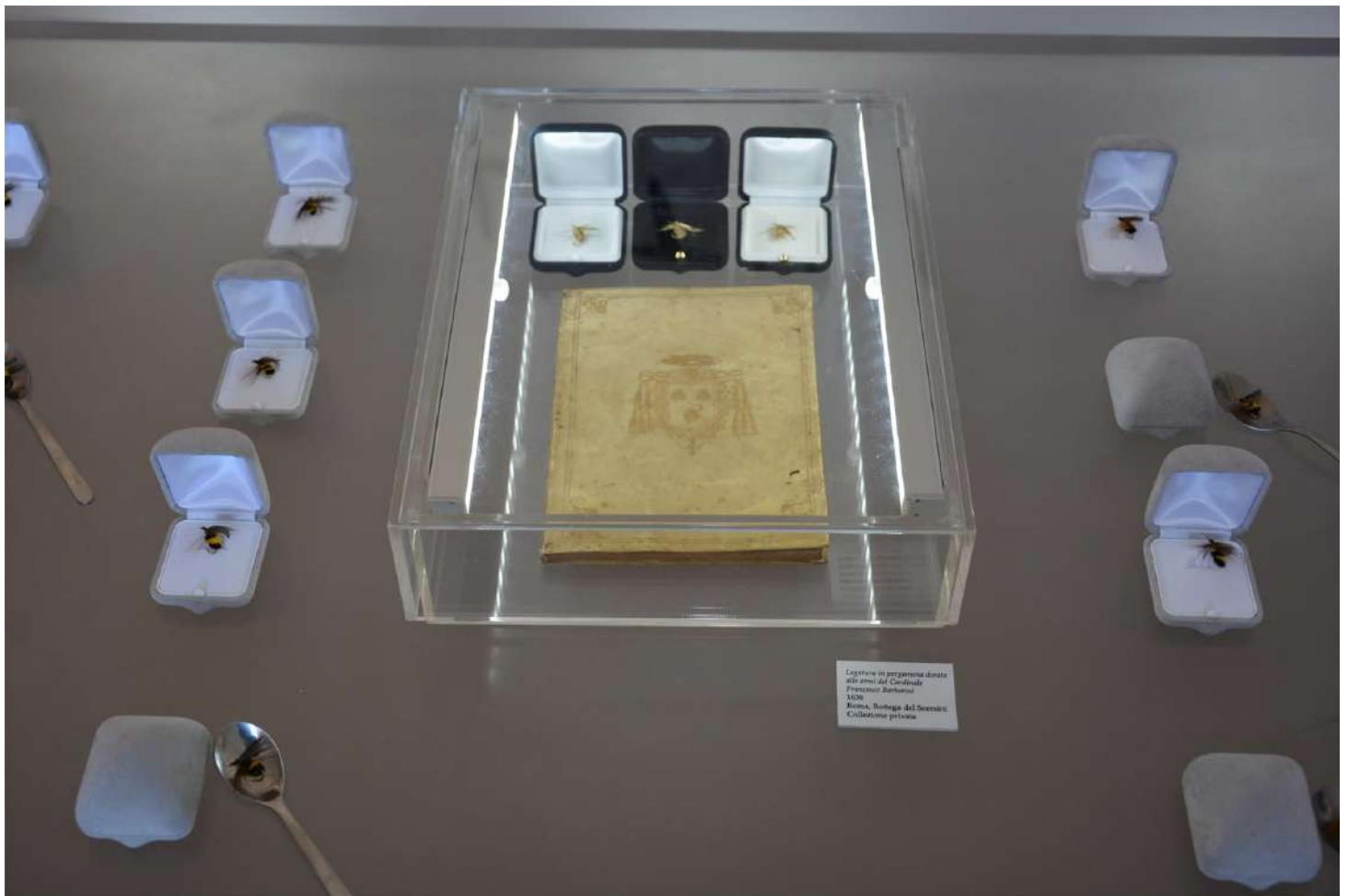
The work is inspired by a line from an idyll by Theocritus, a poetic fragment that re-emerges from time, resonating as the yearning for a lost splendour. Curi's installation seeks to capture this and to make it shine again in all its brightness. "Golden bees from the Forum", writes Curi, "with the poetics of the *Idylls* of Theocritus. Immobile the anxiety of a reminiscence in epochal battle trim. You will return to soothe the wounds with milk and acacia honey."



In a situation of precariousness and uncertainty, of deep concerns and unhealed conflicts, the need for poetry stands as a foundation of humanity, in the desire to preserve the world we live in so it can return to be the Paradise that we believe we have lost, learning from the hard work of bees, which become a symbol of force, hope and vitality. "If I could choose, I would be reborn as a bee", Alda Fendi declares, "but as a worker bee, not a queen bee. Hard-working, intent on saving the earth. In the Forum the bees visit us, injecting us with the precious pollen of life, the precursor of any vaccine."

At the centre of the *Fora Raffaele Curi* composes a full-blown visual poem to be explored; a journey by way of images and words, capable of making citation and evocation the raw material for a powerfully resonant artistic and poetic experiment. A tribute to Rome, through its most important historic and artistic legacy, that is, the ancient empire and Baroque. But it is also an opportunity to convey, through art, an important ecological message suspended between poetic amazement and historic reality.

To attest to the importance of bees not only in nature but also in art history, Raffael Curi combines the Egyptian hieroglyphics of the tomb of Sesostris I, a silver tetradrachm from Ephesus in Greece, Book IV of Virgil's *Georgics*, medieval visions from the *Tacuinum sanitatis casanatensis*, *Cupid the Honey Thief* by Albrecht Dürer, the plinth of the *Equestrian Monument to Ferdinando I de' Medici* produced by Giambologna in Florence, the *Fountain of the Bees* by Gian Lorenzo Bernini, the *Triumph of Divine Providence* painted by Pietro da Cortona on the ceiling of the Palazzo Barberini, and *Le coeur des abeilles. Alda Fendi par Pierre et Gilles* photographed by Carlo Bellincampi.



Loggione in pergamena donato
agli zeri del Cardinale
Francesco Barberini
1638
Roma, Bottega del Senato
Collezione privata

The connecting element of these walks along the path of history and art, freely evoked and linked together by Raffaele Curi, is the heraldic arms of Urban VIII Barberini, with its three famous bees. And the sound of humming bees that seduces the visitor is by Antonio Infantino.

INFORMATION:

Fondazione Alda Fendi - Esperimenti
Address: via della Curia 4, Rome

The exhibition is open
from 21 May to 21 June 2021,
Monday to Friday,
6pm to 8pm.

Admission free.
Prior booking only.

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