

I quaderni di Hannah Arendt

Reality is not steadfast, it is not strong, it needs our protection.

Hannah Arendt

In some way, reality needs our acceptance. Like so, we are creators of the world.

Simone Weil

I quaderni di Hannah Arendt 2017 – 2021.

Ink on paper, handbound notebooks and embroidered fabric covers, 31.5 x 44cm each., 29 notebooks on 3 tables, 80x200x80 cm each.

This work is a manual copy of the pages of *Denktagebuch – notebooks and diaries from 1950 – 1973* by Hannah Arendt, ed. BEAT, a publication of 29 working manuscript notebooks, in which the author notes and deepens her reflections. Even Hannah Arendt often copies texts by other authors and writes in German, as well as in English, French, Greek and Latin. The 29 notebooks have been bound by hand with grey-black covers that are decorated with motifs inspired by the Bauhaus period, whereas the white sewn pages are those that were used for printing legal and administrative acts, a lightweight paper that when leafed through makes a noise.

The notebooks are presented on 3 elegant yet sober black tables with an illuminated white background.

The first phase of the work is to trace, in pencil, the printed pages, realised in collaboration with the Tavolo di Lavoro in Marzabotto, Italy. Then the writing in pencil is rewritten in night sky blue ink in a single calligraphy.

The copying allows for an in-depth reading, a dictation of the text, sometimes intellectually incomprehensible, but which, however, from the eyes travels through the body to the hand, from page (read) to page (written). A true copy of printed pages. Meditation on the process of writing and reading. The act of reading. The faculty of thinking. Rethinking thoughts, reflecting, in search of the truth.

I quaderni di Hannah Arendt have been exhibited during the working process in 2017 in *Lettura per voci e silenzio*, curated by Elena Volpato, FLAT, Turin (6 notebooks) and in 2018 in *War is over*, curated by Angela Tecce and Maurizio Tarantino, at Museo d'Arte della città in Ravenna, (12 notebooks).

For the collaboration, thank you to Debora Domenichelli (binding and covers), TLM (patient and precise tracing), Franco Miccinesi (made-to-measure tables) and to Galleria Minini and Galleria Continua for the trust and support.

...in my life I have never loved a populace or a collectivity – neither the German people, nor the French, nor the Americans, nor the working class, or anything of the sort. I only love my friends and the type of love that I know and in which I believe is the love for people.

Hannah Arendt

Bibliography

Nadia Fusini, *Hannah e le altre*, Einaudi

Laura Boella, *Cuori pensanti*, Chiarelettere

Simona Forti, *Sulla normalità del male*, Feltrinelli

Sabrina Mezzaqui