

“ALDO TAMBELLINI, artist, primitive and innovator”

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The Tosco-American pioneer of multi-media brings to the James Cohan Gallery spaces his works which span thirty years of experimentation, among planets, satellites, projections and poetry. *We are the Primitives of a New Era, paintings and projections 1961-1989*, is the title and the driving force behind the exhibition of this Italian-American artist at the James Cohan Gallery in Chelsea curated by Joseph Ketner. The exhibition which opened on September 12 may be visited until October 19th. This is Tambellini's first exhibition in a New York Gallery in almost forty years and revisits the philosophy of space exploration which has inspired the work of this artist for decades. In fact, it was this curiosity about space and the willingness to understand and capture the energy which emanates from this vision which moved the artist to create works which were totally visionary for the times.

Aldo Tambellini was born in the 1930's in Syracuse, New York, but he grew up in Lucca, Italy, where he lived the horrible years of war, which has led him to his conviction that “the earth will someday die.” Probably, this premonition about the end, combined with the curiosity of a genius have brought Tambellini to be among the first artists in the 60's to explore new technologies as a means of artistic expression. Experimenting with new technologies and deliberately combining painting, photography, cinematography, music and poetry, the artist creates his multi-media performances in which he is able to create and transmit a sensory experience which he called *Electromedia*, which inspired other artists such as Andy Warhol and Steina Vasulka.

Tambellini's artistic practice is based on black and its opposite white and alternating these two non-colors, he creates concentric circles and spirals that appear to be a manifestation of energy. “Black is the beginning. It is birth, the oneness of all, the expression of consciousness in all directions.” These are some of the artist's

verses which are projected around the exhibition, which emphasize in a perfect manner, the importance of black in all of his works.

In order to pay homage to this multi-media pioneer, the James Cohan Gallery has set up four different viewing sections, in the first, one can admire the images created by Tambellini in his attempt to capture the energy transmitted by television. In the second room, we find the installation, *Black Space*, a real multi-media spectacle of films, sound, projections of poetry verses which were written by the artist, these embrace the environment, occupying the entire walls and even a part of the floor. Entering in this room, we find ourselves enveloped in a sensorial experience which transmits a feeling of being totally immerse in the cosmos, navigating as an astronaut among darkness and planets. The images are made by creating spirals on glass slides and to look at these they appear to be photographs from outer space.

In the third room, are his paintings which represent circles and spirals where the black and white deliberately alternate, forming a convincing representation of space and of the black holes which one finds in it. It is incredible how the artist was able to represent in such a realistic manner a reality of which little was none at the time. Today, we are so used to the photographs which are sent back to earth by the satellites, that it is not difficult to find realistic representation of space, but Tambellini created these images in the 60's when only a few people had a correct vision of what was out in space. He imagined black space and spirals which reproduced elliptic orbits, representing things which were dismissed at that time and transmitting the energy which gets trapped in those concentric circles. The tour of the show ends with an area set aside for video where one can view and listen to the first experiments by the artist with a video camera.

Today, at 83, the Tosco-American pioneer of multi-media dedicates his time to poetry, and he still has much to say.