

Claudia Comte
Dark Suns, Bright Waves

Freestanding walls,
 double-sided vinyl, and
 acrylic wall painting
 10 parts, 3 x 33 x 57 m overall;
 3 x 6 x 0.2 m each wall

Claudia Comte creates sculpture, painting, installations, video, and performances to address particularly pressing issues like climate change, global pollution, and preserving the ecosystem. Peppared with pop-inspired irony and deploying a visual language that comes out of her research into natural and digital forms, her works are the culmination of intense study and design.

The fourth in a series of interventions, *Dark Suns, Bright Waves*, is Comte's boldest wall paintings to date – a set of self-supporting walls, in dialogue with the surrounding environment. In 2015, she made the first piece in the series, 128 squares and their demonstration, as a freestanding wall that on both sides houses a drawing of an abstract matrix, its geometric nature and intense chromaticism contrasting sharply with the surrounding landscape of pine trees and Mediterranean vegetation.

Dark Suns, Bright Waves, on the contrary, is a highly complex and mimetic work featuring a black-and-white image of a concentric circle that creates waves, redolent of forms existing in nature: 10 modules of the same size are mounted on an imaginary vanishing line to create a perspective effect on location in AIUla. Each wall features part of a pattern extracted from a diagram the artist refers to as flower or sun, the result of research she undertook on the geological and natural shapes that recur in this location and also inspired by the studies of German biologist and philosopher Ernst Haeckel, who coined the term ecology in 1866.

Each form develops through proximity, proliferating in the next image as if generated by the preceding one, the outcome of an expansion that mimics the movement of dunes shaped by the wind, the geological transformations of the earth and the way the sun heats the ground. It is as if the world of plants, minerals, and animal life is transformed into algorithmic sign, as if at last digital representation and ecosystem come together in the prehistoric trace of a fossil, a rock, a shell, a primordial imprint of living presence. Combining organic forms with optical patterns and life with digital information, this vibrant installation alludes to the world's primitive metamorphosis as a spectacular presence against a scenic natural landscape backdrop of extreme beauty. ●

- Marianna Vecellio

