

DIEGO ESPOSITO

The Italian artist **Diego Esposito** exhibits *HYS* (Haifa Yellow Sound), a light and sound installation. The artist has shut off a space with a velvety yellow partition, thus separating it from the viewer. Through the partition, a bright hypnotizing yellow halo lights up the whole area. In the background, from the closed-off area comes the sound of a violin playing, a far away sound which slowly creeps closer and approaches the fascinated viewer. The sound gets gradually louder until it reaches its peak, after which it progressively decreases and disappears completely, until absolute silence reigns in the area. The loud sounds provoke the viewer, and their disappearance increases the sensation of mystery. The viewer's expectations are satisfied when the sound is again heard, reaching the yellow partition, and then returning to the enclosed space where the spectator cannot follow. The five musical interludes were composed and arranged by Andrea Castagna.

Esposito declares that he has long been interested in what colour means to various cultures: "Light and space are very important to me in my work. The bare space, that is not really bare, is everything in my opinion. Space is the essence of the work and I work with it like a composer with music. I love working with it not as sight, but as sound, and for me, silence is also sound. The work begins to exist when the spectators meet the space, like people dancing. In my work, the viewer is active. If there are no spectators, there is no art. Before I create, I must become aware of the space in which I am enclosed."

Esposito has visited Japan, and the impressions of Japanese culture and society gathered during his visit may be detected in his work. He has mastered the use of colour, light, sound, space and form in order to realize his concept of space as time. In Japan, space is approached not only as surface and volume, but also in terms of time. In Japanese, the term *ma* has several meanings: space, time, span, pause, interval.

By means of the yellow of the partition and the neon light, Esposito has created a sense of splendour, neatness, and harmony, which intellectually enhances the power of the work. The sound of the violin also arouses feelings of classic, poetical order, and of tradition and culture. With great sophistication, the artist has employed music to materialize the concept of space-time, not only as surface and volume, but also in terms of pause, interval, silence. The pause is repeatedly used in Esposito's work, and is also defined by the partition which divides the space and create a void. Colour and light play a central role in the creation and division of the space, and so do the variations in the intensity of sound.

Colour and light, space and form, sound and tone create a minimalistic synthesis, devoid of plastic materials. The space is etherealized, infused with a magnetizing poetic quality conducive to introspection.