

## FABIO MAURI

PS



NEWS FROM EUROPE PART 1  
NEWS FROM EUROPE PART 2:  
VEGETABLES

1978  
23 minutes  
colour  
mono  
a Western Front Video Production

The videotape News from Europe consists of two parts: News from Europe, which is also the title of the video performance, and Vegetables, which refers to the second part.

Part 1: A silent film is projected on the shirt of the author. This is Joan of Arc by an unknown director. It is older than the famous film by Dreyer.

The metaphor, experienced by the author, who gradually moves towards the shirt, while others who are already there start unbuttoning it (as though they wished to physically take part in the most ferocious part of the drama) is obvious. Europe's trouble is seen as a traditional scene where there are deeply felt conflicts and passions and where the hope for the victory of an idea is achieved by the sacrifice of its original beliefs.

The historical reflexion in Fabio Mauri's work has always been a careful reflection on reality, like history. In this case the process is reversed, but identical: history is reality and it gives it a meaning.

Part 2: Vegetables. As a comedy after a dramatic film, the shirt worn by the immobile author is seen again. There are voices of young people, whispers and people in the distance. They are all speaking and saying things he said, they are speaking about him as though they were in front of a corpse, in front of somebody or something, like a shirt for instance, in ecstasy state.

One begins to understand with a touch of irony that the fact to be an European man has made the author ill outside Europe. One understands he does not believe in youth, in equilibrium, in happiness. He considers this is all appearance. He does not even believe in the appearance of the world. He is said to benefit from this experience with a Messianic spirit. It is his own experience. His mouth spouts out vegetables which have striking shapes and colours. Thoughts are like vegetables whose form is in compliance with gravity, eternal gravity. Thoughts depend on this, like all other things in the world and are biblically damned. They take on different shapes for this same fundamental reason. This dependence is subjected to the malignant equation of erroneous calculation and judgment, which by a changed image, the author's arm writes on the blackboard.

The spectators are asked to say what is best for the author at this point: a clinic or a museum. The reply, as he would say, at present there is nothing better or worse according to him than Europe. -FM

Fabio Mauri was born in Rome, where he lives. His life is quite difficult to describe because of its complicated tracing. However, the experiences which flow into his artistic activity are heterogeneous and very different, one from the other. They all contain a constant element: the power of intellectual interest for everything which, including art, is presented to the eye of an epistemologist who lives for the first time.

News from Europe (video) 2° parte: Vegetables

- 1° voce - Guardate: il suo mondo é interiore!  
Sono tutti cosí gli artisti europei!  
Essi non reggono al nostro clima:  
la loro struttura é metafisica.  
Dovevamo fare piú attenzione.
- 2° - Come? Emette legumi!  
Dalla bocca, dalle mani,
- 3° - Attenti... Cavoli!...Ma sono della Florida!
- 1° - Certe pratiche  
non riducono il senso simbolico...
- 3° - Egli pensa che la giovinezza é un trucco.  
Egli pensa che l'apparenza é un trucco.  
Egli pensa che anche la vecchiaia lo é.
- 4° - Dice di profittare ora dell'esperienza.  
Poi é tardi.  
La giovinezza ci sará sempre sulla terra.  
Ma il resto fugge via piú veloce della luce.
- 1° - Egli dice che i legumi sono  
sottoposti alla gravità.
- 2° - Afferma che la loro forma é condizionata dalla  
gravità.
- 3° - Egli dice che i pensieri sono come i legumi.  
Essi sono condannati alla gravità.
- 1° - La sua testa, dice pure, é un laboratorio  
dove avvengono il maggior numero di  
errori possibili.
- 3° - Il pensiero stesso é un errore. La sua forza  
lo é.  
Manipola la verità e la realtà  
nella piega maligna della gravità.
- 1° - Dice che la gravità é incline alla caduta.
- 2° - Ogni asceti deve tenerne conto.
- 1° - Cosa credete sia meglio per lui?
- 2° - La clinica o il Museo?
- 1° - E' uguale: non c'è niente di meglio e di peggio per lui  
che l'Europa.