

RADICAL LANDSCAPES

A 90' and 52' documentary by Elettra Fiumi (IT/USA)

Produced by Central Productions (CH), Fiumi Studios (CH/USA) and Film Affair (IT)
and in co-production with Radiotelevisione Svizzera italiana (RSI)

Log Line:

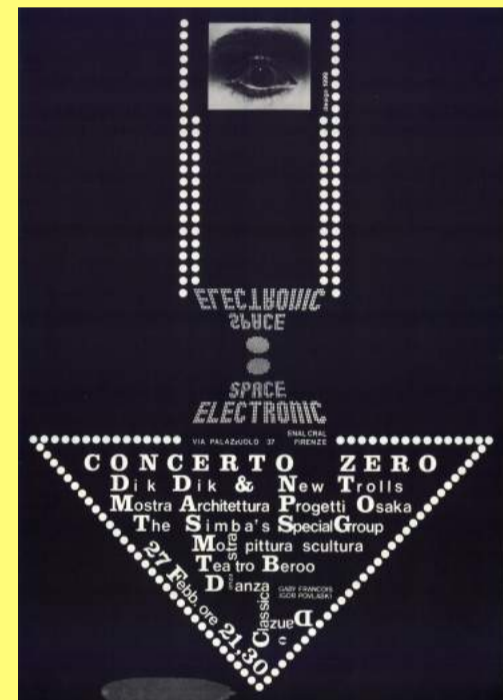
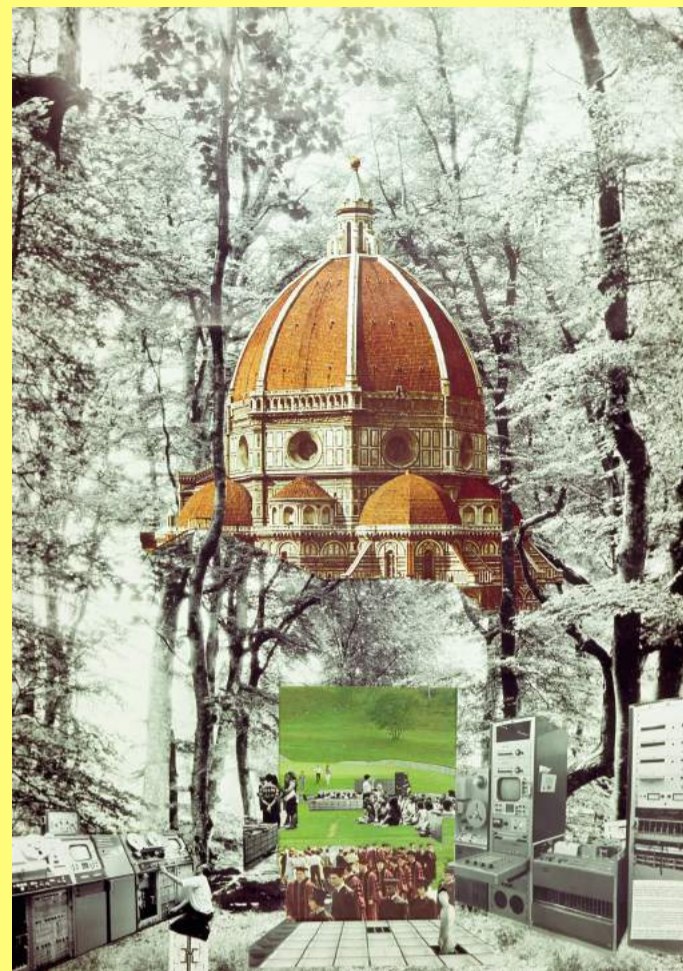
Radical Landscapes is a historical and personal journey through the landscapes of the soul, via an astonishing Florence and a vibrant America: following the death of visionary architect Fabrizio Fiumi, his daughter Elettra embarks on a quest to discover her father's radical past and to rediscover herself, while revealing an unknown page of contemporary Florentine history, a world of utopian collages and gardens in nightclubs.

Synopsis:

It is 2014, Elettra has just lost her father, Fabrizio Fiumi, and inherits his vast and messy archive, thus discovering his life before her birth, when he was a member of the radical architects' group 9999, whose contributions to the international art world were very important. Between her mourning and the need to find answers to her questions surrounding her father figure, the young director begins to film the process of organizing the material and her interviews with the people who accompanied Fabrizio throughout his life.

We thus enter this surprising page of Florentine history, in which the Renaissance city was invaded by colors, sounds, innovative thoughts and utopian dreams. With one foot in the past and one in the present, these radical landscapes come to life: we see the polluted waters of Venice give way to fresh green meadows, Florence Cathedral surrounded by electronic sequoias and the birth of Space Electronic, one of the first nightclubs and the fulcrum of the new ideas representative of that revolutionary period.

After spending eight years studying and witnessing her father's life, Elettra decides it is time to revive it: she organizes a "Revival", an event inspired by those conceived by her father, recalling the fundamental principles of the radical movement, and thus reopening the dialogue on urgent issues that are still topical.



Historical context:

The international, visionary and environmentalist movement known today as Radical Architecture broke out between 1960 and 1970. During these years, numerous groups were formed, including the 9999, founded by Fabrizio Fiumi – father of director Elettra Fiumi –, and particularly in Florence, which became the epicenter of the international avant-garde of the time. These collectives were united by a progressive spirit and a cutting irony that were hurled against the prejudices of conservative society, provoking reflections that are still relevant today and encouraging the need to rethink the concept of architecture in its political dimension. The members of the 9999 group had an important influence on the international art and architecture scenes, as they foresaw the imminent technological development linked to globalization. Indeed, they were interested in promoting a series of environmental responses to real situations and were the only ones to propose scenarios of integration of urban and natural landscapes. In 1969 they inaugurated Space Electronic, one of the first nightclubs in the world, which was also an architecture school during the day, called S-SPACE: besides being a cultural place of entertainment, it also provided effective education based on the free transfer of knowledge, which anticipated the idea of architecture as a form of communication. In recent years, the works of the movement have received renewed interest, with several internationally recognised exhibitions. The documentary Radical Landscapes is the first film about the 9999 group and Radical Architecture as seen from the inside, offering viewers the intimate and unique point of view of the daughter of one of its leading figures.

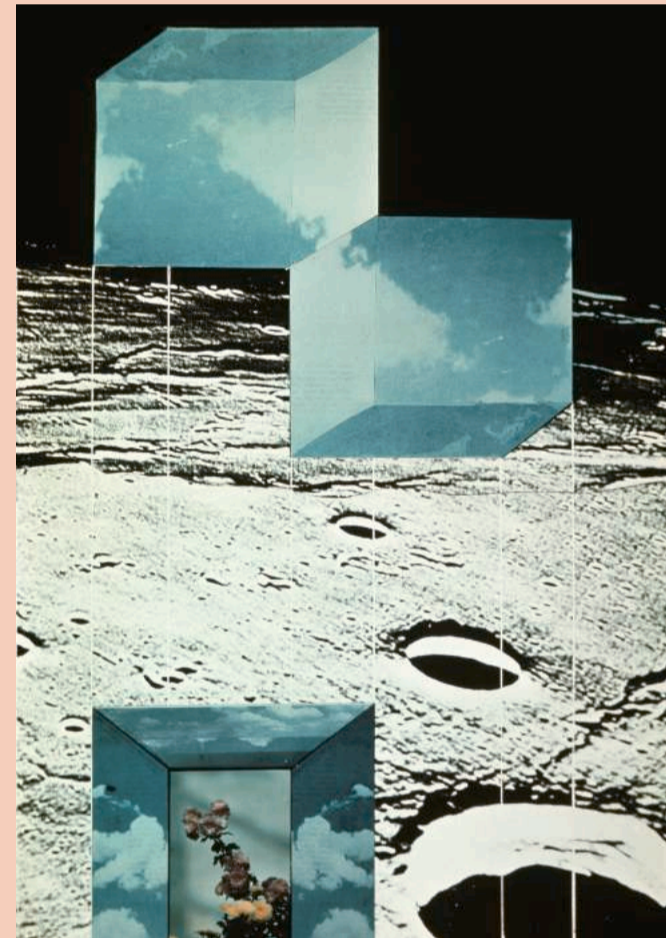


Director's notes:

With the death of my father, Fabrizio Fiumi, I inherited the archives of his radical life that took place before I was born, of which I was unaware. With this film I want to bring back to life the thinking of these visionary architects and democratize the dialogue around architecture. Inspired by the works of the 9999, this film follows a collagist method: the editing combines past and present, weaving together archival and contemporary footage, accompanied by 60s and 70s music, and a sound design composed of alternating naturalistic and technological sounds. In this way I hope to recreate a reflection of memory and the journey of mourning where the boundaries of past, present and future merge in a magical-realist atmosphere.

Director's biography:

Elettra Fiumi, daughter of Fabrizio Fiumi (member of the 9999 Group), is an award-winning Swiss-based film producer, director and editor. She is currently finishing Radical Landscapes, a documentary film about the 9999 Group, which won a grant from the Graham Foundation, and has spent the last nine years collecting, digitizing and studying the 9999 group's archives, which she supervises. Elettra is the founder of Fiumi Studios, an award-winning full service production company based in Lugano and New York. She has worked on documentaries for Netflix, Amazon Prime, The New Yorker and BBC, and her films have been screened in several museums, such as the Vitra Design Museum, the Design Museum Brussels, the Canadian Center for Architecture, the Museo del Novecento and Palazzo Strozzi. Elettra is also a professor of journalism and content production at Franklin University Switzerland, and an alum of Columbia Journalism School and Mount Holyoke College.



Audience:

The envisioned audience for this documentary is extraordinarily diverse: the more historical side of the film will mostly appeal to any architecture student and surprise many art history passionates, whilst the archival footage will amaze all those who are nostalgic of those revolutionary years and bewitch the rest with the picturesque Italian landscapes. Furthermore, the main protagonist's personal journey – the loss of a parent, the need to redefine herself and answer existential questions – is a universal one, hence it is able to charm any soul.

Status: premiered DOCNYC (first screening sold out, added second)

Production years: 2013-2022

Technical specifications:

- Color and black and white
- Super 8, HD and 4K
- Archival and current day footage, animations and stop motion graphics

