



TWO EVERY THREE is dedicated to Miriam Mafai - 2012

"Pyromaniacs are male, not female. To set fire to a wood, a field, a piece of world, and to calcine it so that it will be sterile for many years is a male prerogative" ... "Pyromaniacs transfer to the face of the Earth the same disfigurement that the male and master inflicts on the face of a female he considers unfaithful or shameful, or simply not his property. Gea is a woman, it welcomes the seed and makes it sprout. Pyromaniacs, rapists and disfigurers of women should be included in the same branch of Evil".

Michele Serra (taken from the column 'L'Amaca', in la Repubblica, 20th August 2012).

"Due ogni tre" (Two every three) (the title refers to the 2011 data, according to which two women were killed every three days in Italy) is based on the atrocious case of violence which took place in Ukraine last March: beaten, repeatedly raped, strangled – yet not killed – by three boys between 20 and 23 years of age, the eighteen-year-old Oksana Makar was abandoned burning alive for 10 hours. She survived for 20 days, in atrocious torment. But she did not make it.

In the **first part** of the video, the young woman who appears in the first scenes introduces the case of Oksana: her name is Valentina Toropenko and she comes from Ukraine, from the same town as Oksana Makar. Valentina has been living in the province of Parma for about 10 years. She is married and her house in the hills has a wonderful vegetable garden. The peaceful work of preparing the soil before planting tomato seedlings (which she obtained from the seeds), watering, picking vegetables and finally the sweet description of a 'home-made' recipe from her Country, everything in the first scenes conveys the idea of love for life and the ability of this young woman to

take care of it. With patience, with love, Valentina expresses through her gestures and behaviour the wholeness and complexity of being a woman. At the end of the day's work, the harmony is interrupted by the reading of newspapers from her Country: the horror of savage violence, abuse, evil burst in. With a sense of deep bewilderment, we hear the voices of pain, desperation, annihilation. And of death.

The **central part** of the video, shows the faces and voices of many women from Parma (of all ages and of different origins) who wanted to express their sympathetic involvement in condemning all kinds of violence against women. They make us listen to the last memories of Oksana Makar, of that terrible night in the snow, alone, while the flames were slowly burning her body while she was still alive.

Finally, in the **third part**, violence is symbolically represented by long sequences – in two different phases – on a wonderful shrub of single-flower peonies. First, they are in full bloom. The petals, wide-open, show the gynoecium: the feminine ovary – bulging with promises of life – is present together with the stamen. The male sexual organs are overflowing with pollen, indispensable vehicle for a possible new existence. In their bursting vital power, the peonies show themselves to everyone without fear or reticence, unaware of such beauty. Finally, due to a sudden violent storm, the flowers are humiliated in their blooming climax, annihilated in their power and disfigured in their innate perfection.

The terrible case of the young Oksana here becomes the emblem of all the acts of violence against women: the pain, disbelief and rage are the same, they belong to us. **“Two every three”** shows the woman both in her simple and in her complex aspects. Like the Earth, she generates and takes care of the life of Man. She does so through common gestures, from which – however – it is possible to perceive strength, generosity, warmth. That is, that particular female form of adhesion and understanding of the world – ancient and deep – in all its aspects and needs, material and immaterial.

The explicit use of natural elements as direct symbolic references, which have the power to express through their images Michele Serra's words, is aimed at achieving a harmonious relation between the miraculous, moving beauty of vegetable life and our human existence, in order to reach a fully respectful and peaceful alliance between man and woman and, by extension, between the Earth and Man.

Gea is a woman, no doubt about it.

With the participation of:

Valentina Toropenko

And in alphabetic order:

Flavia Armenzoni

Liana Avanzini

Elvira Balestrazzi

Elena Battilocchi

Carlotta Beghi

Francesca Bigliardi

Cinzia Capitani

Simona Caselli

Sokhna Mariama Diakhate

Emma Dotti

Omaima Elsayed

Malda Frai Eman

Maria Grazia Fontanesi

Samuela Frigeri

Rosaria Gallicani

Andreina Garella

Barbara Lombatti

Patrizia Maestri

Gabriella Manelli

Maria Eugenuia Michel

Zhou Ming

Carmen Motta

Maria Ricciardi Giannoni

Emma Riccio

Roberta Roberti

Teresa Schettino

Agnese Scotti

Albertina Soliani

Adele Tonini

Anna Chiara Vighi

Lucia Zafferri

Accompanying music by Vincenzo Mingiardi.

Voicing and music pieces taken from the web (radio news and Ukrainian sites, all dedicated to the case of Oksana Makar).

Special thanks to: Patrizia Maestri and the staff of CGIL Parma for authorizing the filming in their offices.

Length: 20' 05"