

Fantasy of Botticelli: The “Calumny”

DIRECTION:

Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti

TEXT

Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti

MUSIC

Daniele Paris

PHOTOGRAPHY

Carlo Ventimiglia; camera assistant Franco Sfondrini

YEAR

1961

PRODUCTION

Romor Film, Milano (for Direzione Pubblicità e Stampa Olivetti).

NOTES

organization of Ugo de Lucia

FORMAT

35 mm, 16 mm

LANGUAGE

Italian

DURATION

12'

FILM

Colour

SERIES

seleARTE Cinematografica, Critofilm 12

DESCRIPTION

This film offers a critical reading of the Botticelli's painting, kept at the Uffizi, whose subject mainly derives from a work of Apelles described by Luciano in the De Calumnia. Ragghianti focuses his attention on the dramatic composition of the picture and on the strong psychological characterization of the allegorical figures, by juxtaposing this work, full of narrative pathos, to the serene images (the Graces, the Venus, etc.) of the previous paintings, through the techniques of fades and of matt box. In order to study Botticelli's style, Ragghianti also uses in this film animated patterns and lines, which show the compositional structure of the picture. Therefore for Ragghianti, fundamental remains the formal analysis of the work, as clearly illustrated in this last comment: "Summarizing the vision, the strong dramatic content of the pagan allegory, with the movement and contrasts of its development, unfolds in an emotional balance contained by the radiant architectural composition. The artist at this moment detaches himself from a visionary and luminous past and gives shape to a feeling already upset and shaken by passions and grief".

