



ISTITUTO ITALIANO
DI STUDI ORIENTALI ISO

SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

THE ICONOGRAPHY OF THE SO-CALLED “CROP CIRCLES”:

LAND ART OR “LANDED ART”?



March 21st, 2012, h. 12.00, Aula Magna “Caserma Sani”

Via Principe Amedeo, 182/B, Roma

Filippo Salviati

will lecture on:

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The expression ‘crop circles’ is used to refer to geometric formations or patterns of varying size and extensions, known also as ‘agroglyphes’, which are created by the flattening of fully developed crops – barley, wheat, maize - just before harvest. While the exact date of the earliest occurrences of crop circles is not known and highly debated, the most significant formations, which have been documented through photography and filming, date back to the 1970s, with a substantial increase in number and degree of complexity in the agroglyphes’ structure and size which has been recorded in the last fifteen years or so.

While crop-circles have ‘appeared’ in many countries all over the world, England still remains the nation where the majority of crop circle formations have been found.

Many theories have been advanced in relation to who or what is responsible for the sudden, often overnight appearance of these formations, including claims they might be of non-terrestrial origin.

Since the early 1990s, the UK art group called “The Circlemakers”, with artists such as Rod Dickinson and John Lundberg, has been creating a number of crop circles in England and other countries; however, they and other groups of ‘artists’ do not claim to be responsible for all the formations which have been documented in the past decades.

Besides exploring the making of crop circles as an artistic practice linkable to the ‘land art’ or ‘Earth art’ movement, this lecture will also illustrate the results of the most recent academic and scientific research which seem in part to substantiate the non-terrestrial origin of some of these formations.

All the students of English, and colleagues interested in the topic, are invited to participate in the lecture which will open the series of three : “Margins”.

Next date:

March 30th, Aula Magna “Caserma Sani”, h. 10.00

Flutur Troshani will lecture on:

“Literariness in Performance”

