

The Fossil Star

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The old light bulb factory in Camargo, now the Arts Centre, is the venue in which the artist Susan Nash Logan (London) has presented her latest work. A fit setting for the installation *The Fossil Star*, itself concerned with light and vision. This work is accompanied by a group of paintings on “found objects”.

Susan Nash, who studied in Southampton, received a grant from the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to study in Spain, and carried out postgraduate studies in Cambridge, makes use of salvaged “non-artistic” materials in her art work. This kind of practice was started by the Dadaists, continued by the surrealists, “completed” by the neodadaists, and is still a source of lucid inspiration, as in the case of the artist in question. She finds it stimulating to scrutinize useless things, to seek objects that once served a purpose, in order to create a new work. She does not, however, gloat over the squalor of the rubbish that this material has become; she gives it a constructive dimension, creating for the work a clean and tidy appearance. For this purpose Susan Nash salvages wood, pieces of table, of doors and windows, and uses their forms in the configuration of her works whilst, as the artist puts it, “respecting their past”.

When she paints, she usually uses acrylics. *Frost*, on a vertical wooden support, evokes that meteorological phenomenon in a landscape of blues. With a round table-top she creates *The Four Points of the Table*, with an old coat-stand a *Throne of Blood*, with a kitchen counter, the work entitled *Sputnik*. In fact, the “found object” acts merely as a support, its original function often being hidden. But on the other hand, the artist sometimes reverses her working method, constructing supports similar to found materials.

The installation, a large pyramid in red and blue on sand, makes symbolic allusion to its surroundings; a light-filled space, as is the light bulb. A scaled-down sun, an object that contains the elements of earth, fire, air and water (matter, energy, gas, liquid); a fossil, which is as much as to say, created from materials and energies of the earth; viewed poetically: a “fossil star”. Susan Nash’s work presents a recondite expressiveness, in the depths of a symbolic language which requires exploration in order to be completely understood. And following this premise, the part played by media and material can be established in relation to the end to be achieved.