

Monika Wolf GHOST SHIRT N.2

with feathers, pumpkin seeds, mother-of-pearl-shell pieces / 2014 / 35x16 (33) x10 cm

My works were inspired by the nineteenth century movement of the North American Indian Ghost Dance. Between 1880 and 1890, various tribes sent emissaries to a man, named Wovoka, who claimed to be a visionary, and who was hailed as a Messiah by many desperate Indian Nations. Wovoka preached non-violence, and most tribes abandoned their war-like ways in preparation for future happiness. The ritual dance unified Indian people, even tribes with a tradition of conflict. The Ghost Dance is a ceremony for the regeneration of the earth and subsequently, the restoration of the earth's caretakers to their former life of bliss. North American Indian Ghost Shirts for the Ghost Dance were worn by men, women and children. The aim was to enter into contact with the Great Spirit to converse with another world and with the ancestors. Every shirt was decorated with symbols which appeared in a vision. For the Oglala-Sioux the ghost shirt possessed the magic quality of defending them from the white man's bullets. The great tragedy of Wounded Knee in December 1890 put end to the ghost dance as a widespread phenomenon. Other spiritual movements saw survival in terms of a continuation of the intimate relationship between people, nature and spirit that was the underlying essence of many Native Cultures, Shouldn't this be an exemplary leading idea for all of us in our contemporary world?

THE FLOW OF LIFE


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Group Exhibition / curated by

Stefania Carrozzini  - My MicroGallery - Milan, Italy

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