

Vittorio Santoro

NYCHTHEMERON

October 25, 2025 – January 9, 2026

Artist's Note

A system is a group of interacting, interrelated elements that act according to a set of rules to form a unified whole. It is described by its boundaries, structure, purpose and functioning, and is influenced by its environment. Simplified representations, models, of a system can be created to help us understand and predict its future behaviour. They may define a system's structure and behaviour.

Human-made systems are created for various purposes, achieved through actions performed by or within a system. The parts of a system must be related and designed to work together as a coherent whole; otherwise, they would be distinct systems.

The first room of this exhibition features an intricate installation that, with the help of knotted cords running over several pulleys attached to all six surfaces of the room, simulates a system. Its overall disorienting affect leads visitors to forget that the knots make it almost impossible for it to function properly. An unexpected sense of balance, however, is reached between the two ends of the installation: three instruments are placed on one end and an empty basket with an attached sign on the other. This 'incongruous' pairing prompts an investigation into the contradicting weights at its two ends and their emblematic objecthoods.

The second room acts as a resonance chamber where thoughts and commentary—inspired by current social issues, the mechanisms that instigate social tensions, and personal investigations—are articulated through time-based texts and sculptural works, some of which utilise everyday materials.

I am aware that objects and everyday materials are activators of collective, shareable thoughts. Objects contain the patina of history. They can be used, re-examined, and activated in relation to different cultural contexts and historical situations, and might be able to speak a more subtle language across time.

I believe that artworks are a source of ideas—not just one, but many—rather than a vessel for a single thought or concept. They, by definition, speak a language that ignores keywords. As a general tendency, I like to think of the visitor as someone who would like to join an open-ended conversation.

The works on display in the third room are characterized by an investigative impetus: to explore the dissonance between the perception, measurement, and inevitable passing of time, and the determination to act and effect personal change.

Utilising the flow of the rooms, the exhibition is effectively seen twice by the visitors: once when visitors walk from the first to the third room and again, in reverse, when they make their way towards the exit, thus completing a cycle.

Nychthemeron describes a period of twenty-four consecutive hours, designating a timespan that can start at any time. A timespan during which a person may experience different thoughts, convictions, engagements and re-examinations, sometimes even contradictory ones.