

GALLERIA ANTONIO BATTAGLIA

NICOLA VITALE - PAINTINGS

Opening: Wednesday 13 September, 2023 - 6.30 pm

Catalogue available with a tribute to the critic Pierre Restany

Fifteen paintings, recent works looking to the past. Figurative, apparently simple and fun with a conceptual intensity that the art critic Pierre Restany described as "written images", metaphorical, spontaneous, with an immediate impact and authentic.

Immediacy, spontaneity of painting and thinking are so the peculiar mark of these paintings; a painting that is expressed with a sharp force of forms and bright colors that search into shapes and figures a universality of thought, mythical and legendary and a continuous story as written by Elena Pontiggia in a presentation of the artist:

"...into his painting we feel the wish of telling life more than a specific or recurring theme (that could make his research more recognizable, but that could also degenerate into a series of little varied variations)".

The investigated topics are various allowing the artist to space with the imagination, telling the word seen by unusual perspectives, sometimes caught in paradoxical situations, sometimes re-evaluating popular tradition illustration's stereotypes playing a complex and stratified thought.

In this exhibition in particular the artist sweeps from zoological figures transfigured into a sort of fairy-tale eden to a prosaic contemporaneity that take a particular metaphysical lyricism.

The image and the concept have a multiform story, cover a huge sequence of events in a mutual enrichment. This exhibition traces the synergy between aesthetic and meaning reversing the usual process of sense in which the abstract force of the image is what gives new meaning to the concept, to our awareness of what exists.

During the exhibition there will be a video conference from 1995 with Pierre Restany talking about the works of Nicola Vitale.

Galleria Antonio Battaglia

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Biographic notes

Nicola Vitale, Milan 1956, is a painter, poet and essayist. Since 1987 he has exhibited paintings in solo and group exhibitions in private galleries and public spaces, in Italy and abroad, collaborating mainly with the Galleries: Maniero, Ermanno Tedeschi, Toselli, Giampiero Biasutti, In Arco, Duet Art, The White Gallery and abroad with Atelier AAA (Lugano, CH), Ward Nasse Gallery (New York City, USA) Gangurin Gallery (Reykjavik, IS) and Arkitektvägen 44 (Stockholm, SV). In 1992 the French critic Pierre Restany became interested in his painting, presenting the artist on various occasions, including the exhibition at New York University in 1994. In 2010 the Municipality of Milan dedicated a large solo exhibition to him at Palazzo Sormani: *Animali da lettura*, where one of the recurring themes of his pictorial work is anthologized, that of animals (pres. E. Pontiggia). In 2011 he was invited to the 54th edition of Biennale di Venezia (Italian Pavilion). Some of his works are permanent at National Gallery of Art in Reykjavik (IS).

Since 1993 he has published collections of poetry mainly with Mondadori, he is present in the anthology *Poeti Italiani del secondo novecento*, by M. Cucchi and S. Giovanardi (Mondadori, 2004), in the anthology *Braci, Poeti italiani contemporanei*, by A. Colasanti (Bompiani, 2021). In 2009 with the book *Condomino delle sorprese* (Mondadori, 2008) he won the Laurentum and Reghium Julii awards. He has published essays on visual art with Marietti 1820, Moretti & Vitali and Mimesis. The aesthetic essays on contemporary art are particularly noteworthy: *Figura Solare - Un rinnovamento radicale dell'arte*, Marietti 2011 (pref. M. Mazzocut-Mis), *La "Solarità" nella pittura, da Hopper alle nuove generazioni*, Mimesis 2016, (pref. E. Franzini) Il class. Scriviamo Insieme Award, Rome 2017, Eng. trans. "Sunniness" in painting, *From Hopper to Hockney*, Mimesis International 2019. He collaborates as conference speaker with the Central Library (Sormani), Casa della Cultura and Fondazione Corrente of Milan, with the aesthetic magazines of the University of Milan, *Itinera* and *Materiali di Estetica*. He also collaborates with the contemporary art magazine Exibart.

The exhibition will continue until October 4th.

Gallery hours: Tuesday / Friday 16 - 19.30

Saturday 11 - 13.30 / 16 - 19.30 and by appointment

With the support of:

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