

CONTINI
GALLERIA D'ARTE



MARIO ARLATI INCOMPLETE FLAGS AND...

GALLERIA D'ARTE CONTINI

Piazza Silvestro Franceschi, 7 – Cortina d'Ampezzo

3 AUGUST - 9 SEPTEMBER 2018

As of 3 August 2018, the exhibition *Incomplete Flags and...* by **Mario Arlati** will be held at Contini Art Gallery, Cortina d'Ampezzo.

A prominent artist within the contemporary art field, Mario Arlati was born in Milan in 1947. He lives and works between Milan and Ibiza, the latter being very important in the development of his artistic identity and a decisive turning point in the transition from his early figurative style into a more mature materic and informal language. However, Arlati's work escapes any attempt of historization and affiliation to any artistic movement.

The artist passionately dedicates himself to his work, taking inspiration from the surrounding environment and its colors, matter and light, getting closer to the aesthetics of Arte Povera. His artistic language is characterized by a gestural expressiveness and the inclusion of tools and everyday objects that are transformed into a highly expressive work of art. The *Incomplete Flags* series comes from this very resolute communicative need. The matter, which has been masterfully shaped,

dominates every other component while nourishing the inner image - both emotional and vital -that emerges directly from the matter itself.

The vigorous character of his work, together with the confident use of color and its expressive immediacy clearly show that his message is very frank, tangible and imbued with an intimate human meaning.

The dialogue between the artist and the viewer is an integral part of Arlati's painting, which engages us, urging us to respond to the stir triggered by the work. It is precisely with the series *Incomplete Flags* that this interaction process reaches its peak.

This collection of recent works develops from a project supported by the European Union, representing a clear homage to the work of American artist Jasper Johns. An unequivocal and immediately identifiable symbol, the flag has to be conceived as a message of power, community and culture. Hence, a symbol of unity, but at the same time it is also a symbol of fragmentation, as revealed by the very concept of unfinished. Arlati places at the center of his whole poetics the term *incomplete*, which highlights the active role of the audience, who is invited by the artist to complete the work with their own gaze and interpretation. It is almost as if the artist's purpose was to make each one of us standing in front of his *Incomplete Flags* feeling like we were the last man destined to fill that void and to reestablish a primordial need of unity, born out from the very concept of Nation.

His interest in the manipulation and transformation of the matter also characterizes the series of work *Trapos*, literally 'rags'. These pieces consist of assembling parts from different fabrics stained with colors: the pigments are poured slowly onto the fabric until it gets soaked and the colors are blent to bring a new allure to the matter. Once again, the artist diverges from a narrative, instead focusing on the fragment, the sign, the gesture, the stratification between matter and color, which identify and represent life experiences and feelings. Arlati's gesture becomes playful, instinctive and dynamic, therefore reaching his ultimate aim: genuinely presenting the human being to human beings.

Mario Arlati - Incomplete Flags and...

Galleria d'Arte Contini, Piazza Silvestro Franceschi, 7 – Cortina d'Ampezzo (Bl)

Opening event: Saturday 18 August at 6:30 pm; the artist will be present.

The exhibition is open every day from 3 August to 9 September 2018

Opening times: 10-13; 16-20

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Exhibition Catalogue available for sale in the Gallery