

CONTINI

GALLERIA D'ARTE

ENZO FIORE

Nature and Inclusions

OCTOBER 4th - NOVEMBER 10th, 2018



Aimo Room Concept Store

Contrada Sassello, 5 – Lugano, Switzerland

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Contini Art Gallery is delighted to present a solo exhibition of artist Enzo Fiore entitled “**Nature and Inclusions**”, opening Thursday October 4th 2018, at the **Aimo Room Concept Store** in Lugano, Switzerland.

The exhibition exposes a vast selection of works that reiterate Enzo Fiore’s artistic evolution, presenting his famous portraits of celebrities and landscapes alongside his most recent series, *Inclusions*.

Throughout the work of Enzo Fiore, nature is the protagonist and is central to his art; and it is this constant dialogue, which has become the very essence of Fiore’s aesthetic. Natural elements such as branches, roots, leaves, earth, moss and insects have always been Fiore’s artistic instruments together creating an organic, biological world whereby each subject emerges from nature.

The exhibition celebrates the artist’s highly acclaimed and prolific career, highlighting the pivotal changes and significant themes, which albeit perpetually evolving, are what define Fiore’s oeuvre as an artist. The subject matter derives from our collective consciousness, manifesting in Fiore’s images of landmarks, landscapes or natural environments, reinterpreted through the artist’s unique language in which organic material is the syntax. The exhibition also presents Fiore’s influential portraits of prominent figures from the world of art, history, music and cinema; Namely, Marilyn Monroe, Freddie Mercury; Madonna, J. F. Kennedy among many others. Collectively these portraits appear like an archive of celebrated icons of our time.

Enzo Fiore’s work speaks of a certain *life cycle* in which the subject of the work and the material used to compose it actually merge into one, creating a constant dialogue between nature, artist and the spectator. At first glance, the image appears as a pictorial, almost graphic portrait. However, with close observation one can perceive the multitude of animal and vegetable forms recognizing insects such as crickets, ladybugs, butterflies, as well as dirt, dry leaves, intertwined roots which at a distance seemed a mere wrinkle of expression, or the pupil of an eye, a mole, the peak of a skyscraper, or the shadow of a city. At Large, these organic elements perform static in symbiosis, giving harmonious meaning to the work.

Inclusions is a fascinating display of Enzo Fiore’s refined compositions in which butterflies and natural elements are unified in thick layers of resin. This series profoundly illustrates the artist’s

fundamental concept; that the earth is the destination of everything, of origin and of the end; it is from there that life is born and it is there that it returns. The plant world within *Inclusions* represents a marvellous natural universe in which the viewer escapes the flatness of reality and is within a metaphysical dimension of fantasy. Some of these works with a black background recall the mysterious and dreamlike settings of Gothic novels or of the Nordic sagas in medieval times in which supernatural creatures could suddenly manifest. Whereas his organic compositions with a white background instead convey an aesthetic alluding to archives of biological classifications or collections of insects and dried plants, presenting elements of natural history which one could find studying horticulture.

Nature lives within these works as a mysterious enigma, revealing the immensity of the organic biological world and alluring the viewer into its wondrous dimension.

Enzo Fiore was born in Milan on July 13, 1968. After attending the art school, in 1991 he graduated in painting at the Academy of Fine Arts of Brera under the guidance of esteemed artist and writer, Luciano Fabro. In the following years, he devoted himself to the conservation and restoration of paintings as well as set design in theatre. In 2006, he met gallery owner and founder Stefano Contini with whom he began collaborating and exhibiting at both Contini Art Gallery Venice and in Cortina d'Ampezzo. The artist currently lives and works in Milan.

ENZO FIORE – *Nature and Inclusions*

Aimo Room Concept Store

Contrada Sassello, 5 – Lugano, Switzerland

Opening night with Enzo Fiore: Thursday, October 4th, 2018 at 6pm

Until November 10th, 2018