

Giuseppe Veneziano

La surreale cronistoria del reale

Curated by Luca Beatrice

From May 28th to November 27th 2011

Giuseppe Veneziano , philologist of ancient art, lover of comics, ironic narrator and eyewitness of reality. Obsessed with history, news items – political, social , television, artistic – and with painting. Or rather, with beautiful painting. Inventor of a figurative art style with vivid tones: elusive borders and "green screen" cinematic backgrounds, uniform with only a few lines that delineate a probable horizon or a minimum prospective of inner or outer depth; he clip-cuts his characters in surreal combinations. The shading is interpreted in chromatic areas given the use of *flattening*, with dominate colors of sea-blue and magenta, almost fuchsia - his unmistakable trademark.

His new-pop representation (better defined as New Brow), is inspired by American Pop Art (Roy Lichtenstein above all) both in his illustrative method and in the way he deals with themes, meanwhile the highest reference for his metaphysical and imaginative composition remains Salvador Dalí, the father of Surrealism.

Veneziano, is used to criticism – from the disputed cover of "Flash Art" in 2004 con Bin Laden and Cattelan to the be-headed portrait of the late writer Oriana Fallaci, in 2006, and the still more questionable iconography of the the Madonna with Child, interpreted by the figure of Hitler, (2010), and utilizes to his advantage the ambiguity provoked by the censure of that which is morally consented to an artist and that which is not; the reality show masked by Veneziano stages actors and extras in a sea of Western world icons embraced by sex and power, appearances and glory, great legends and starlets fated to vanish.

He zaps from Giuseppe Garibaldi, symbol of Italianism in this year of celebrating its 150 years founding to Charlie Chaplin, from Lady Gaga to Carla Bruni, and from the provocative crucifixion "Pietà" with Superman, Cattelan with Marilyn Monroe, Mike Tyson with Van Gogh, Batman wooing Wonder Woman, and a ballet with Hitler and Mussolini. No one is excluded.

Not only provocative, the attitude of Veneziano is that of a reality reporter transfigured in timeless images, in another space and time.

On display in the Contini Gallery a heterogeneous selection of subject pertaining to the new pictorial production of the artist, with the absolute latest: a bronze sculpture painted in original colors, 270 cm in height, depicting David holding the head of the McDonald's clown as a trophy.

Giuseppe Veneziano was born in Mazzarino (Caltanissetta) in 1971. He graduated in 1996 from the Faculty of Architecture of Palermo. From 2000 until 2002 he was Educational Director and professor of History of Art at the Academy of Fine Arts "G. de Chirico" in Riesi (Caltanissetta). He presently lives and works in Milan.

Galleria d'arte Contini

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