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GALLERIA D'ARTE



Andrea Valleri, *Ermeneutica. La Vittoria del Classico*, 2019, mixed media on wooden board, cm 100 x 100

ANDREA VALLERI

HERMENEUTICS

The Victory of Classicism

November 30, 2019 – January 6, 2020

Duni Theatre, Matera
City of Stone, UNESCO World Heritage Centre

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From November 30, 2019, the post-war historical theatre Duni in Matera – a rationalist Italian architectural masterpiece projected by the architect Ettore Stella – will host the exhibition *Hermeneutics. The Victory of Classicism*, dedicated to the Venetian artist Andrea Valleri. The event is organized by the Contini Art Gallery with locations in Venice and Cortina d'Ampezzo, which represents the artist exclusively both in Italy and abroad.

Following the course of the exhibition that unwinds in the suggestive space of the theatre foyer, the public will have the opportunity to closely view Valleri's art in its pictorial and sculptural expressions; the evocative and symbolic strength of ancient myths, the ideas and scenarios of a classical world, the anxieties and the contradictions of the post-modern man all find a common synthesis.

Pop Art and hermeneutics are the two determining aesthetic coordinates for the genesis of Valleri's work; according to the artist, they are two means of expressing a single discovery of classicism that is concretely present in contemporaneity, and even more rooted mythically and ideally in our concept of the world.

In the pictorial works, the compositional procedure – specifically figurative – deconstructs the image in light and shadows, which placed alternately on the surface, traces limitations and emphasizes volumes through full and intense acrylic colors. The subjects portrayed reflect the artist's own life experiences: graceful Venetian landscapes, imposing churches, historic palaces and glimpses of Hellenic temples in ruins that recall our indelible bond with history and the past. The presence of letters and words within the images contribute to a semiotic reflexion on visual expression; the letters often do not form words and the words often do not form phrases yet are aesthetically integrated (whether by contrast or by assimilation) to the context of the image.

In sculpture, the matter itself constitutes a harmonious synthesis in which elements permeate to create an archaic form that evokes the archetypes of our collective subconscious. The very choice of the material components of the sculpture – wood and stone – is a further indication of the evocative propensity of a classical world arising from the metaphor *oak and the stone* in Plato's *Phaedrus*.

Consequently, in Valleri's work, the explicit recall to classicism and to tradition - supported by the familiar expression of Pop Art - is not intended as a mere rhetoric process that incorporates an untouchable and absolute inheritance; it is rather an expression of that dialogical relationship, the same state of our being, in a mutual permeation of the past and present.

Biography

Andrea Valleri was born in Venice on December 14, 1959. Following his classical studies at the lyceum, he obtained his degree in Philosophy in 1985. Venetian by birth and Greek by adoption, he began his career as a native-speaking Italian lecturer in Athens. Since 1989, he has taught Philosophy at the *Cavanis Institute* in Venice.

In his works, the symbolic force of ancient myths and scenarios from the classical world accompany a contemporary expression derived from Pop Art, amplifying the message for the modern visitor. The intellectual and philosophical analysis tends towards the creation of an art that is composed of permeating

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fragments, synthesis of historical memory and cultural collectivity. Valleri's art intends to reconnect the spectator to the historical tradition from which it came and of which it constitutes solid bases. It is in fact, the Greek culture that emerges, both at a level of the subject matter and the subliminal dimension, which the artist considers the semantic matrix, ideal and epistemological of our entire Western tradition.

Andrea Valleri's works have been shown in various solo and collective exhibitions both in Italy and abroad. For a few years now, the Contini Art Gallery in Venice and Cortina d'Ampezzo represents the artist.

Inauguration on Saturday November 30, 2019 at 6:30 pm. The artist will be present.

The exhibition will remain open from November 30, 2019 through January 6, 2020.

Opening times are from Thursday to Sunday, 11 am to 1 pm and 6 to 8 pm.

Duni Theatre

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Catalogue is available at the exhibition, at the Contini galleries and through the website www.continiarte.com