



FRANCESCO SALVI

C'È DA SPOSTARE UNA MACCHINA

CONTINI ART GALLERY

Piazza Silvestro Franceschi, 7 – Cortina d'Ampezzo

3rd AUGUST – 9th SEPTEMBER 2018

From 3rd August to 9th September 2018 Contini Art Gallery in Cortina d'Ampezzo will host Francesco Salvi's solo exhibition *C'è da spostare una macchina*.

Well-known as comedian, actor, singer, dubber and writer, Francesco Salvi - who was born in Luino in 1953 – is also a painter. As matter of fact, drawing and painting have been his first interest. After completing his degree in Architecture, the 1970s represent a career turning point towards the world of stand-up comedy, cinema, television and music. The unforgettable hit song *C'è da spostare una macchina* has foretold and inspired his upcoming painting production. This is most clear by the namesake title of this exhibition as well as the subject matter of the artworks exhibited: a *horror vacui* of cars – and not just them – which have been stacked, overlapped, overlaid or simply arranged randomly onto a two-dimensional surface. The vibrant colors, together with the immediate and *naïf* language remind us of Pop Art and Dadaism, the whole thing spiced up by a hint of scornful irony.

The speed and the enthusiasm that characterize the execution of his work, well adhere to the concept of machine almost in a *marinettiano* sense of term, also becoming the pivot around which his whole poetics develops. Hence, Salvi's paintings could be described as snap-shots of our times, where chaos and restlessness allow us to experience daily urban misfortunes, evoked by titles such as *Fuga dalla città assediata*.

We could dare say that the artist's intention is to reactivate the chaos' rule that holds the strings of our existence, preferring onomatopoeic titles in a rather futuristic taste (*Bum, Brrr, Boom Boom* and so on) or titles pointing to an intentionally useless Magritte-like negation (*No Cars Yellow, No Cars Orange*, and so forth). His production without many frills aims to restore ordinary and fleeting fragments of life through an immediate and naïve carefreeness. Those being the same fragments we tend to forget, while he is attempting to shield them, sealed by the most childlike feelings that they are able to evoke.

Those of Francesco Salvi are mountains of cars that betray his early architectural training and interweave with Pop patterns by means of writings in a typical urban style, almost like vaporized graffiti on the walls of an imaginary city, which unfortunately is never, in point of fact, that imaginary.

An Unauthorized Biography

Bonito Oliva defined him as "the cocaine of the entertainment world" referring to his innovative strength and the energetic electro-shock he inflicted upon the stagnant intellectual-art-cultural world and Italian show business. Francesco Salvi was born more than once in Luino on Lake Maggiore, the most recent birthdate being in February 1953.

Painter, designer, comic, actor, playwright, movie and theater director, author (Mondadori, Rizzoli), translator (Lansdale, Gaddis, Woolrich, etc.), essayist, contemporary music composer, Pop singer, four hits at the Sanremo Festival, numerous gold and platinum records, stand-up comedian, a super-mentioned jokester in all eight volumes of the "*Formiche*", curated by Michele Mozzati & Gino Vignali - the only man from the Renaissance period still working in Italy. He is in fact, six centuries old, though he looks five years younger (if you ask him for two lines of presentation, he cannot but write it so). Many worlds co-exist in him in an unedited orderly *acquis* of creativity, almost impossible to organize chronologically.

Contemporary debut in theater and painting. Diploma from the Engraving Academy in Urbino. His first theatrical company, Nisba. His first one-man shows. Protagonist of the most prestigious international meeting of humorous graphics (which he later tired of). Animated films, and after a brief experience with Bruno Bozzetto - together with RDA70 - he realized his first short film "Etcèssivo" that won awards worldwide. He worked in advertising where he would meet amongst others, Gavino Sanna, Italo Lupi, Paolo Guidotti, Sandro Sbernadori and Tullio Pericoli, whose surreal hand-painted graphics, shirts with cufflinks, jacket/pant suits in Herringbone tweeds he so admired, that he has since unceasingly mentioned it in his works. He debuted at the Derby Club Cabaret in Milan.

He received his degree from the Polytechnic University of Milan with a thesis on *“L’uso del simbolo in architettura”* (“The Use of Symbolism in Architecture”) under Alpago Novello, working as his assistant for two years.

His debut in filmmaking with Renato Pozzetto; later with Valentino Orsini, Florestano Vancini, Celentano, Claudio e Marco Risi, Paolo Villaggio, Neri Parenti, Marco Tullio Giordana, Salvatore Samperi, Paolo Bianchini, Gianni Lepre and many others, alternating comedy with more serious films. In TV the revolutionary impact of his *Megasalvishow* is unprecedented and the subsequent explosion on a national level is comparable to a Nibiru cataclysm in the Empyrean steel of television (“because just like that planet on the opposite orbit of all the others and destined to a large upheaval in the event of an impact”). This happening - unexpected in its proportions, but long awaited - slows down the exposure avoiding an overlapping of the two galaxies of art and entertainment, still today incomprehensibly distant from one and another.

Film and TV bring him to Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Morocco, Tunisia, Albania, Malta, Spain, England, United States. He works with Oscar-winning film director Michael Radford, with Thomas Kadman, with Peter Greenaway; a Hollywood with triple Oscar award winner, Robert Moresco.

Now through the determination of the renowned gallery dealer Stefano Contini, a recent production of Francesco Salvi’s colorful art will be exhibited in Cortina. Just cars. Colorful. Alone or caught in convulsive traffic, exaggerated, comical, smelly. Full of onomatopoeic expressions and insults like the best (or worse) reality. Colors that hold elements together: neon yellow vs. sea blue stands out; bright red vs. opaque, leading to confusion; umber on black to pollute. Gradually the movement increases and accelerates, the color is more intense and the surfaces explode in their search for more vital space that only a tridimensional representation could accommodate.

This exhibition of Francesco Salvi is a conscious glance on tragic situations but in an amusing way, satisfied with the idiocy that appears as much in the suffocation by gas as well as that caused by incessant alarms, which only obtain the opposite effect desired. To find amusing subtexts in the art world we would need at least to go back to Futurists and their dynamism, to the advertising posters, to Depero’s little soldiers, to the views of Balla and Marinetti. Not to mention Walter Chiari.

Apologies if this is not enough.

Translated from the original by Valencia Scott Colombo

Francesco Salvi – C’è da spostare una macchina

Contini Art Gallery

Piazza Silvestro Franceschi, 7 – Cortina d’Ampezzo (BL)

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

The exhibition will be open to the public every day from 3 August to 9 September 2018

Opening hours: 10am - 1pm; 4pm - 8pm

T. +39 0436 86 71 56

E. cortina@continiarte.com

W. www.continiarte.com

Exhibition Catalogue available for purchase at the Gallery.