

## **NARAYANA**

## **RABARAMA**

**Opening event: August 11th, 2016 – 7:30 p.m.**

After the success of *Blend - Accardi Constantine*, opening exhibition of the season 2016, SimonBart Gallery of Porto Cervo continues the programme of events with *Narayana*. The vernissage is focused on the latest artworks of the painter and sculptor Rabarama, which are dedicated to an ancient theme of philosophical and religious tradition: water, as primordial element and origin of existence.

The exhibition will be presented, like the opening vernissage *Blend*, both in the SimonBart Gallery and in the exclusive Rolls-Royce Summer Studio.

Water, as origin and metaphor of human life, has represented a topic theme in too many different cultures and ages. Myths and symbologies which followed through human evolution from the beginning, have always represented water in a sacred dimension, in all the different cultures.

According to a Hindu principle, water is the source of all the things and the origin of existence. Indeed, in the Hindu religion water has always been a theme of crucial importance. In Hindu ritual and mythology, to which Rabarama's last artworks are inspired, water and his sacredness are one of the main recurring concepts, symbol of cosmogony *tout court*. "Nārāyana", literally "inhabitant of waters", is in the Hindu pantheon the primordial man, origin of all the things, , the only source of life. Water, indeed, as source of life, eternity, strength.

The same strength showed by Rabarama's last works, characterized by brave poses and twisted gestures, which recall typical themes of Hindu awareness, reinterpreted with an original artistic language. This comes to a marked dynamism; the artist reaches this results after a suffered and troubled artistic path.

In her latest artworks, Rabarama overtakes the deterministic idea of cosmos and the understating of man as "biological computer", unable to dominate his destiny, in order to come to purely pondering results, inspired to an overflowing vitality. Human figures, with "tattooed" skin, covered by tribal signes which are references to ancient cultures, assume agitated poses, as in the act of setting free from their shell, in which they are prisoners.

Moving from the Hindu Philosophy Rabarama expresses, with an artistic language characterized by chromatic exuberance and a marked dynamism of gesture, the contemporary human condition, grasping her tensions and anxiety. A language strongly dramatic, expressionist, "aggressive both to the spectator and the creator", as the director of the Museum of Art di Boca Raton in Miami, George S. Bolge, has said; on the other side, a language strongly optimistic, of overflowing energy and extraordinary vitalism.

In *Narayana* Rabarama, through the suffered research on the existential condition of contemporary man, gives voice to his untamable, eternal desire of hope and freedom.

## **Rabarama**

Paola Epifani, alias Rabarama, was born in Rome in 1969.

Daughter of an artist, from her early childhood she showed a talent for sculpture. She started her artistic education at the Arts High School in Treviso, and continued later at the Venice Academy of Fine Arts. She graduated with top marks in 1991 and immediately started taking part in a large number of national and international sculpture competitions, earning growing acclaim with both the critics and the general public alike. In 1995 she started a collaboration with the gallery Dante Vecchiato. In 2000 the artist exhibited a collection of works at the Mudima Foundation in Milan and in 2001 she created a monumental sculpture for the Boca Raton Museum of Modern Art in Florida. During this period her figures, which previously had shown no aspirations whatsoever, come to a further metamorphosis; they rip off the skin-wrapping they had been covered in from the beginning, symbolizing the need to cast off their casing, in the relentless attempt to free themselves, an exhausting and never-ending struggle. The first works belonging to this second experimental phase were exhibited at the end of 2000, at the Enrico Navarra Gallery in Paris. In 2001 Rabarama's research focused on a series of monumental sculptures with a highly visual impact. These works were displayed in public spaces and foundations, such as the Palazzo Bricherasio Foundation in Turin, the Dolores Olmedo Patio Museum in Mexico City (Mexico), the Fleury Museum, Lodève (France), Open 2002, Venice Lido (Venice), the important Beijing International Art Biennial (China 2003) and the Museums of San Salvatore in Lauro, Rome. Nowadays Rabarama lives and works in Padua.

Rabarama is considered an all-round artist by her critics and most demanding collectors, thanks to the steady flow of official recognition and awards she has received on the national and international art scene. Her artistic value is confirmed by the extraordinary participation to the Biennale of Venice, the 54th International Art Exhibition, where she was chosen as artist for the Italian Pavilion; From June 4th to November 27th the visitors from around the world could admire one of her large marble sculptures at the Arsenale, one of the most fascinating locations.

**SimonBart Gallery**  
**Via Aga Khan, 1**  
**Promenade du Port - Porto Cervo**  
**07021 – Arzachena (OT)**

**It is possible to visit the exhibition every day, from August 11th to September 1st,**  
**Opening hours: 10:00/13:00 – 17:00/00:00**

**Information:**  
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