

OUT OF FOCUS

RAFFAELE MINOTTO

Opening Event: February 4th, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

After the inauguration of the new space in Salerno, SimonBart Gallery presents a solo exhibition by Raffaele Minotto, Italian painter from Padua. The works in exhibition illustrate different themes, painted by the artist with his own particular painting technique. Interiors, landscapes, banquets, bathers, realized with a skilful use of the matter, which gives to the image the power to hit, "impress" the observer's mind through the eyesight.

The state of being contemporary, with its cult of the media and visual overexposure, daily reduces our ability to capture images in their primordial purity. The need to take the process of investigation of reality back through the painting is emblematic in the works of Minotto, which go beyond the most exterior dimension of the figures to investigate what is "behind the image".

The artistic outcome of this research is a highly evocative painting, just "out of focus", that means both faded and elusive, in which the image gives itself gradually. Figures, often just reflected, to wait, chase, that spectator cannot completely possess, as the environments they stand in. Elegant interiors or rural landscapes painted by Minotto are memory spaces rather than physical ones: metaphysical places, trunk which preserve precious family memories or nature views to join with.

Minotto conveys the sacredness of the environment with a painting both material and evanescent, which gives back the idea of secretive, perhaps inaccessible places. Minotto's visions seem suspended in a personal, dreamlike dimension, for example when he describes the grandmother's dining room, treasure of family memories and, for this reason, always jealously locked, or the walks in places that recall memories of peace and carefree: places to preserve, moments that the artist wants to immortalize on canvas through his own language.

Particularly recurrent in the exhibited works is also the subject of the lavish feast, which certifies the interest of Minotto for Eat Art by Daniel Spoerri. Exactly like in Spoerri's artworks, Minotto realizes random compositions of food dishes and left-overs projected toward the viewer. The detailed description suggests a family atmosphere, where the relationship between man and the objects of the most ordinary everyday life is explored. These are spaces and situations pervaded by a sense of nostalgia but also grace, which stay away from any spectacular fascination to go deep, as Alberto Agazzani states, "in the secret heart of reality and give it back with the magic of evocation, mystery, seduction".

Raffaele Minotto

Raffaele Minotto was born in Padua, in 1969. He attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice, where he graduated in painting in 1991. In 1995 he had his first solo exhibition at the Costume History Center "Ieri Attualità" in Padua; Then he began to exhibit his works continuously. "Via Euganea", art exhibition in Padua, 2003, curated by Giorgio Segato, well showed the hard work of those years. More recently, in 2009, Minotto's painting was selected for "Contemplations", large exhibition by Alberto Agazzani who proposed in the Sismondo Castle in Rimini an effective perspective on Italian painting. The result of this collaboration has been the catalog "Reflections." In 2011 Minotto was invited by Vittorio Sgarbi to exhibit his artworks at the 54th Venice Biennale - Section Veneto Region. Next year he took part in the exhibition "Incontri all'inizio del mondo", at the Cultural Center San Gaetano in Padua.

A new project, "Acque misteriose", was a "back to the drawing", mainly characterized by the analysis of the theme of bathers, already studied by the artist through other techniques. The collaboration with Stefano Annibaleto, curator of the project, led in 2013 to an exhibition at the Sala della Gran Guardia in Padua and to the realization of a catalog which analyzes the proposed theme.

Recently one of his print was nominated for "Leonardo Sciascia 2015-16 Award" and presented in traveling exhibitions of the Award in Palermo, Florence, Fabriano and Milan.

SimonBart Gallery
Via Roma, 46
84121 – Salerno

It is possible to visit the exhibition every day, from February 4th to March 4th.
Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. / 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. / 8:00 p.m.

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