

# Alessandro Albanese

## ***Materia Celeste***

Alessandro Albanese gallery

Opening day Thursday 3rd of February 2022, at 6 pm

From 4th of February to 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2022

Adress: Via Cosimo del Fante 14, 20122 Milano

Curated by Anna Vittoria Magagna

On Thursday, February 3, the Alessandro Albanese gallery presents the group exhibition ***Materia Celeste***, which brings together the work of the masters Antonio Paradiso (Santeramo in Colle, BA, 1936) and Michele Zaza (Molfetta, BA 1948) with two young contemporary artists, Ivano Troisi (Salerno, 1984) and Reverie (Vinci, FI, 1994). With a universe built on the mediums of sculpture, installation, painting and photography, *Materia Celeste* tells a story that embraces the great themes linked to existence between the earthly and natural material sphere, together with its transformations, and the transcendental one with the vertical reflections on time and memory.

The interest in time, the mimesis of nature, identity and its regeneration are crucial elements in Zaza's work. The artist uses the photographic medium not for narrative purposes, but focuses on its main parameters such as repetition, reproducibility and the study of light. The works *Viaggio Celeste* (1980) and *Segreto Magico* (2013) present performances, bodies, portraits and paintings of inner landscapes immersed in cosmic blue, just as if the complexity of his subjects' introspection is able to extend to the surrounding wall, painted in the same ethereal hue. Reverie's works also reflect on time, which is first crystallized in the work by the series of the *Clessidre senza tempo*, which recall the form of the instrument but deny its function; and then it becomes a collective question in *Archetipo del sé* (2020), a sculpture of a vine, a work that attempts to unify and sediment, observations and images of the participants in the performance performed for a few days by the artist in Rome at the Fondazione VOLUME! *Sogno di seta* (2020), on the other hand, has an autobiographical and intimate character, linked to the relationship with the dream - rêve-, with the assiduous transcription by the artist of her own dream activity to overcome the impossibility of its memory, in a fleeting calligraphy that preserves all the performative character of the work.

Matter has a central role in Paradiso's work in the sculptures of *Volo* (2020;2021). The heavy corten sheets are emptied, it loses its gravity, turning into a hymn to lightness and carrying the absolute symbol of freedom of life with the silhouettes of birds in flight. The beauty of natural forms, the sense of space and distances is also represented within the pictorial work and, once again, nature returns to be a generative matrix. The spiritual soul of flight is contrasted with an archaeology to be sought in the clamor of life and reproduction, as in the photographic collage *Seme di Pinco* (1978) of the installation presented at the Venice Biennial, which brings us back to immanent and earthly

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values. Troisi draws the same immanence from the nature of Paradiso, his sculpture highlights an important organic aspect, revealing and concealing the essence of nature. *Impression* (2021) is a cast of the bark of a tree, as if to preserve its memory beyond time. *Nel Vento* (2021) is a gilded sculpture of a leaf which, as the protagonist of the movement of air in space, it is what remains when a tree is stripped bare and it becomes a symbol of the transformations and cycles to which nature is subjected.

*Materia Celeste* presents art as an instrument of the *homo faber*, who looks at nature and existence as generative matrices. The iconological index, of the system of signs and images, is presented with a charge of ancestral and archetypal magic that envelops and captures the viewer, accompanying him throughout his visit.

## BIOGRAFIE ARTISTI

### **ANTONIO PARADISO (Santeramo in Colle, BA, 1936)**

He lives and works in Milan. He studied sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts of Brera in Milan with Marino Marini. He has exhibited in numerous venues in Italy and abroad, including the Museum of Modern Art in Dortmund, Helsinki, Cologne, Stockholm, Los Angeles, Belgrade, Toulouse and others. In 1978 he participated in the Venice Art Biennale. Mainly sculptor, but also performer, painter and video maker, his research has been directed mainly to the past and remote history of man. He has studied rites and religions of the past, traveling in the Sahara Desert and tropical Africa, combining a scientific approach to his anthropological art. His work often approaches themes related to nature, such as the numerous studies and works on birds and flight. In 2000 he created the La Palomba Sculpture Park in Matera, an archaeological site and former tuff quarry within the Murgia Regional Park, a place where art and nature meet, with installations and works by Paradiso and other artists including Nagasawa, Spagnulo and Staccioli. Other major exhibitions include Fondazione Mudica (Milan, 2000), Mediterranea 2 (Dubrovnik, 2002), XIV Quadriennale (Rome, 2005), Palazzo Reale (Milan, 2011) and Musée Frac- Occitane (Toulouse, 2020). Have written about him: Dino Buzzati, Luciano Caramel, Arturo Schwarz, Enrico Crispolti, Flavio Caroli, Emilio Isgrò, Pierre Restany, Luciano Inga-Pin, Achille Bonito Oliva, Anna d'Elia, Germano Celant, Renato Barilli, Pier Luigi Tazzi.

### **MICHELE ZAZA (Molfetta, BA, 1948)**

Frequenta il corso di scultura di Marino Marini presso l'Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera a Milano, dove consegue il diploma nel 1971. Si dedica fin da subito a una ricerca espressiva condotta attraverso il mezzo fotografico e già a partire dai primi anni '70 fa parte della scena artistica internazionale. Nel 1972 tiene la sua prima mostra alla Galleria Diagramma di Milano a cui seguono varie altre esposizioni personali, tra cui Galleria Massimo Minini (1974). Nel 1977 è a New York, dove espone con Giulio Paolini al Fine Arts Building e nel 1980 tiene una personale alla Leo Castelli Gallery.

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Nello stesso anno è presente alla Biennale di Venezia con una sala personale. Nel 1981 è invece a Parigi con una personale al Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. Nel 1977 e

nel 1982 partecipa a Documenta di Kassel. Nel 2011 è a Prato al Museo Pecci, nel 2013 e 2014 lavora a due personali alla Galleria Giorgio Persano di Torino e alla Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Roma. Le sue opere sono conservate presso varie collezioni pubbliche, tra cui: Emanuel Hoffmann Foundation, Öffentliche Kunstsammlung (Basilea); Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart, Collezione Egidio Marzona (Berlino); Cabinet des Estampes du Musée d'Art et d'Histoire (Ginevra); Musée de Grenoble (Grenoble); Museo Cantonale d'Arte (Lugano); Walker Art Center (Minneapolis); Centre Georges Pompidou – Musée National d'Art Moderne (Parigi); Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (Parigi); Fonds National d'Art Contemporain (Parigi); Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea (Roma); Musée d'Art Moderne (Saint-Etienne), Collezione Rolf H. Krauss (Stoccarda); Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (Teheran); Musée d'Art (Toulon); Kunsthaus Zürich (Zurigo).

## **IVANO TROISI (Salerno, 1984)**

He attended Marino Marini's sculpture course at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts in Milan, where he graduated in 1971. He immediately devoted himself to an expressive research conducted through the photographic medium and since the early '70s is part of the international art scene. In 1972 he held his first exhibition at the Diagramma Gallery in Milan, followed by various other personal exhibitions, including Massimo Minini Gallery (1974). In 1977 he was in New York, where he exhibited with Giulio Paolini at the Fine Arts Building and in 1980 held a solo exhibition at the Leo Castelli Gallery. In the same year is present at the Venice Biennale with a personal room. In 1981 he was in Paris with a solo exhibition at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. In 1977 and 1982 participates in Documenta Kassel. In 2011 he is in Prato at the Pecci Museum, in 2013 and 2014 he works in two solo shows at Giorgio Persano Gallery in Turin and at the National Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art in Rome. His works are held in various public collections, including: Emanuel Hoffmann Foundation, Öffentliche Kunstsammlung (Basel); Hamburger Bahnhof - Museum für Gegenwart, Egidio Marzona Collection (Berlin); Cabinet des Estampes du Musée d'Art et d'Histoire (Geneva); Musée de Grenoble (Grenoble); Museo Cantonale d'Arte (Lugano); Walker Art Center (Minneapolis); Centre Georges Pompidou - Musée National d'Art Moderne (Paris); Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (Paris); Fonds National d'Art Contemporain (Paris); Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea (Rome); Musée d'Art Moderne (Saint-Etienne), Collezione Rolf H. Krauss Collection (Stuttgart); Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (Tehran); Musée d'Art (Toulon); Kunsthaus Zürich (Zurich).

## **REVERIE (Vinci, FI, 1994)**

She lives in Milan dedicating to Art every moment, action, and every rose of his life. Her anagraphic name, and not just art, is a dedication to the "Poetics of reverie" by Bachelard. She works on

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contaminations, interferences of looks and reactions, starting from the deepest solitude. She elaborates performances that represent collectivity, contemporaneity and the feeling between real and virtual starting from intuitions that become first texts and then multimedia cycles with sculpture, video, audio and photography. For the last two years she has been dedicating himself to a cycle that investigates the theme of dreams through a personal alphabet and to the production of new works in ceramic, glass, bronze and silk. Through anthropology, literature, philosophy, psychoanalysis and science, he has made the study of the dream, even "daydreaming", an original research aimed at developing an artistic language to investigate reality, passing through the archetypes, as memories and "collective dreams".

Recent performances: Sogno 2: Winner of the City of Treviglio Prize, September 2021; Sogno 4: Lunar Dawn, Montelupo Fiorentino, July 16, 2021, Special guest for Ceramica OFF, Festa della Ceramica 2021; Sogno 3: La camera degli specchi, Milan, Triennale Milano Teatro, June 13, 2021 for the fourth edition of FOG Triennale Milano Performing Arts; The Sleeping Muse, September 2020, Milan, Palazzina Liberty Dario Fo and Franca Rame, in collaboration with Fondazione Mudima and curated by Raffaella Perna; Sogno 1: Archetype of the Self, November 2019, Rome, Fondazione VOLUME! ; Futura Poesia, November 2018, London, Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art. "librosogni" published by Skira in January 2020 and with an introduction by Raffaella Perna is her latest artist book. Her works are part of private collections including Maramotti collection, Gori collection, Cotroneo collection.