

Corrado Zeni

The theatre of life



Invitation to the opening

Wednesday 4 october from 17.30 to 21.00

Via di Monserrato 40 | Roma

Curated by Marilena Saraceno

With the solo show 'The Theatre of Life', Corrado Zeni surprises the viewer with the power and visual strength of the imagery in his works, whereby the 'purposeful' simplicity and immediacy, bring to mind the words of Arthur Miller: 'theatre, is so infinitely fascinating because it's so casual, as is life.'

And the reference to life and its daily randomness, evoked by the figures portrayed is instantaneous; the characters initially photographed individually, in completely different contexts (cities or continents, that may be) are subsequently put in relation to each other following a carefully studied order, so as to create bonds and relationships that never existed in reality, that which takes up the surface of a canvas, is the medium whereby to deal with everyday events that occur in our life.

One feels a strong sense of familiarity whilst dwelling over the works on display: each and every one of us has been a character of that crowd depicted, whilst strolling, looking at or answering a mobile phone, photographing, hugging or chatting.

saracenoArtgallery

These are gestures that each one of us, carries out on a daily basis, the fact that these subjects have existed in real life, having been captured in a photographic image and then wisely painted oil on canvas, therefore retaining the initial spontaneousness and motion, begs us to identify with the image.

The immediateness of a dialog between the viewer and the works of 'The Theatre of Life' allows this latter, by this stage of the exhibit feeling quite at ease, to linger on the extraordinary technical ability employed: from the expressive power of the details of the folds in the clothing that seem to have a tactile consistency, to the accessories worn by the protagonists, to the choice of using white or black as a background, so as to decontextualize and fully highlight the human silhouette, to the co-existence of various stage prospective thus enabling to portray characters in the distance whilst, however ensuring the idea of motion.

With his stylistic code intentionally ciphered, the artist manages to harness everyday life with its comforting and transversal repetitiveness; in the end, as one of the titles chosen for a painting on display recites "We Are Anyone"...

Corrado Zeni biography

His career begins in the 1996, in the following years as well as numerous solo and group exhibitions, he was among the finalists of Premio Cairo (2003), in the same year solo exhibitions were held at galleries Guidi&Schoen in Genoa and Ronchini in Terni. In 2004 he participated in the Anteprima della XIV Quadriennale in Rome and has exhibited at Museum Mart in Rovereto, as well as on the occasion of his solo exhibitions at Galerie Voss in Düsseldorf and Galleria d'Arte Moderna in San Marino. In 2005 he was among the finalists for Premio Maretti and Premio Fabbri, and has presented a new series of works in a solo exhibition at d'Ac Galleria Comunale d'Arte Contemporanea in Ciampino. In 2006 he participated in the exhibition La Donna Oggetto at Castello Sforzesco in Vigevano and Human Art at Galleria Comunale di Catania. He participated in the show Nuovi Pittori della Realtà at Museum Pac in Milan (2007) and was among the artists invited to the exhibition Linee all'orizzonte at Galleria d'Arte Moderna in Genoa. In the same year he was among the finalists of Premio Michetti. Between 2008 and 2010, he presented four solo exhibitions among which I still have a long way at Ronchini and Familiar Strangers in Genoa. In 2009 he began working on sculpture creating a series of public installations, for the Museum of Palazzo Bianco in Genoa and the spaces of Macro Future in Rome. In 2010 the solo show Babel dedicated entirely to sculpture was held at Guidi&Schoen and in 2011 he was selected for the Liguria Pavillion at 54th Venice Biennial. Between 2013 and 2019, he presented eight solo exhibitions among which Generation Why took place at Galerie Voss, Düsseldorf and Éloge de la fuite at Galerie Filser&Graef, München, Icons at Galleria Pack, Milan and People at Palazzo della Provincia Autonoma di Trento; among many exhibitions catalogs in 2008 the editor Gli Ori has published a retrospective monograph that retraces his work since 1996. Over the years he has participated in the most important international art fairs including Art Brussels (Be), Art Cologne (D), Arco Madrid (Es), Art Moscow (Ru), Artefiera, Artissima, Miart (It).

4 october - 18 november 2023

from Tuesday to Saturday 11.00 - 13.30 | 15.30 - 19.30