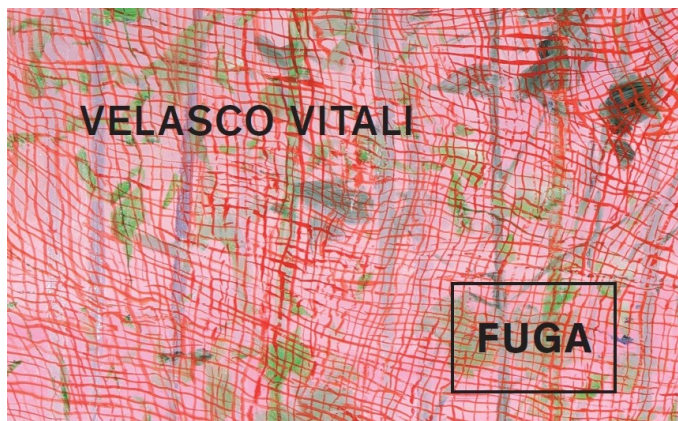


PRESS RELEASE

GALLERIA MAZZOLI



Saturday 27 June 2015, at 18.30, Galleria Mazzoli presents *Fuga*, the first solo show by Velasco Vitali in Modena: after seven years, Velasco returns for an individual exhibition at the gallery, after the major public projects in Pietrasanta (Piazza and Church of Sant'Agostino), Milan (Palazzo Reale and Piazza Duca d'Aosta), Scilla (Castello Ruffo di Scilla), Isola Madre (Stresa) and Verbania, and after the exhibition *Foresta Rossa* at the Triennale di Milano.

The Lombardy-based artist presents his works through a labyrinthine itinerary in which the gaze and path of the viewer are “guided” on a journey through the gallery that leads to the discovery - and rediscovery, on the return - of the original works Velasco Vitali has produced over the last year, outlining an “escape” through painting and sculpture.

A contradiction: a labyrinth through which to escape.

Mark Gisbourne, in the text of the exhibition catalogue, writes: “It is a journey through the extended gallery space intentionally constructed by the artist as an imagined and projected labyrinth, and poses an array of different questions and emotive reflections to the passage of the viewer. Ariadne’s thread is signified by the paintings, sculptures, and drawings the viewer encounters along the way.”

The space of the gallery is divided into 5 rooms, 5 chapters, and “each room in the exhibition represents a chamber of differentiated affective stages, visualised examples of transitory moments of passing pictorial consciousness.”

“The sensation - writes Giacinto Di Pietrantonio - is thus of a non-finished eternity, of a painter who has moved away from the canvas and could return from one moment to the next to complete it. Or it could be a way of encouraging an open series, a flight towards the next work.”

A round trip in the poetic universe of Velasco Vitali.

Catalogue available at the gallery, with texts by Mark Gisbourne and Giacinto Di Pietrantonio.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Velasco Vitali was born in Bellano in 1960. He lives and works in Milan.

His career began with the encounter with Giovanni Testori and participation in the exhibition *Artisti e Scrittori* at Rotonda della Besana in Milan. After several solo shows, his painting concentrated on the tragedy that destroyed part of Valtellina at the end of the 1980s, work that converged in the exhibition *Paesaggio Cancellato* curated by Roberto Tassi (1990). At the end of the 1990s he was invited to the Rome Quadriennale, and began research on the ports of the Mediterranean and southern Italy: this focus led to *Isolitudine* with Ferdinando Scianna in 2000, and in 2003 *MIXtura* with Franco Battiato. In 2004 Electa published *Velasco 20*, on monograph on the artist's first twenty years of work, with a contribution by Giulio Giorello. *Extramoenia* (2004-2005) was an exhibition organized by the Region of Sicily, held in Palermo (Palazzo Belmonte Riso) and Milan (Palazzo della Ragione). In 2005 his work became part of the collection of the MACRO in Rome. With curator Danilo Eccher, he produced the exhibitions *Immagini, forme e natura delle Alpi* (2007) and *LATO4* (2008). Fernando Mazzocca and Francesco Poli curated *Sbarco* (2010), set up in Piazza Duomo and in the complex of Sant'Agostino at Pietrasanta, and in Milan at Piazza Duca d'Aosta and Palazzo Reale. In 2011 he was invited to participate at the Italian Pavilion of the Venice Biennale, showing *Veidrodis*; the LKFF Gallery in Brussels hosted his solo show *Branco*, and the volume *Apriti Cielo* was published by Skira, featuring watercolors on the theme of the sacred, including some of the drawings made for the culture section of "Il Corriere della Sera," the newspaper with which he has worked since 2007. In 2012 he did *Foresta Rossa*, an art intervention on Isola Madre (Stresa) and in Verbania, curated by Luca Molinari. The reflection on the ghost town that formed the basis of this installation continued the next year with the solo painting exhibition *Foresta Rossa: 416 città fantasma nel mondo* at Triennale di Milano, curated by Luca Molinari and Francesco Clerici. That same year a solo show of sculpture was produced at LKFF in Brussels, the installation of *Branco*, a group of sculptures at the Vittoriale degli Italiani, and the monumental project *Medi Terraneo* at Castello Ruffo di Scilla. On 14 April 2014 he showed the sculpture *Traditio Symboli* in the Cathedral of Milan and took part in the IV Biennale Gherdeina of sculpture in Ortisei, Val Gardena. In February 2015 he was invited to the Berlinale (Forum section) as producer and protagonist of the documentary *Il Gesto Delle Mani* directed by Francesco Clerici, showing him during the making of a bronze sculpture.

On view until 19 September 2015

For information:

GALLERIA MAZZOLI

Arte Contemporanea

Via Nazario Sauro 62 , 41121 Modena

Tel. +39 059 243455 - Fax +39 059 214980

info@galleriamazzoli.it - www.galleriamazzoli.it

hours: Monday-Saturday 10-13/16-19

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