

Matteo Massagrando

The Essence of Light and Silence

23 November 2018 – 6 January 2019

Matteo Massagrando, a native of Padua, has become both an outstanding contemporary Italian painter, and a seminal artist of the figurative, representational movement in European painting. His works are exhibited alongside the art of such masters as Lopez Garcia, David Hockney and Vincent van Gogh.

The cornerstone of his artistic credo is to establish continuity between the past and the present, integrating the time-honoured values of art history with the innovative endeavours of modern painting and its tendency towards experimentation. His work is a continuation of the purest tradition of Venetian painting, in which, for centuries, colour and light have remained the most important means of expression.

Massagrando artfully manipulates the diverse possibilities inherent in material. The scratched, cracked surfaces of his works made a few years ago were reminiscent of antique frescos, while the powerful chiaroscuro of the latest paintings produces an extremely exciting facture that makes the humblest crack in the plasterwork, the tiniest patch of flaking paint, monumental in effect.

A dominant effect of Massagrando's painting is silence, the capturing of motionless moments in the present while simultaneously referring back to the past and looking forward into the future. While the foreground is frozen in a "lifeless" timelessness, the lush vegetation of the background hints at the possibility of movement and change.

The interlocking rooms and corridors, the backlit interiors, and the diverse geometric patterns of the floor tiles, are reminiscent of 17th-century Dutch painting. He combines the linear perspective and strict space-construction of Renaissance painting with an early 20th century, modernist treatment of space. He uses both cold and warm lights, which now bring out, now blur, the sharp contours, and radiating from all directions, make the colours glow. All these effects create a rhythm for the painting as Massagrando harmonizes the manner in which Vermeer and the Venetian masters treated light with the heritage of 20th-century Italian painting.

What Matteo Massagrando performs is a systematic series of painterly experiments, probing into space, colour, perspective and light. Every one of his works is marked by the desire to articulate an original visual system that stems from classicist principles. This is the ultimate value of his painting and full expression of his artistic philosophy.



La terrazza di ponente | 2018 | Oil and mixed media on board | 23 x 33 cm (9 x 13 in)



Bryant Park | 2018 | Mixed media on board | 150 x 100 cm (59 x 39.3 in)

Pontone

GALLERY

MATTEO MASSAGRANDE

Born 1959

RECENT SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 "In my room: artists paint the interior 1950-NOW," curated by Dr Rebecca Schoenthal and Ryan Steadman, The Fralin Museum of Art at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville
- 2017-2018 "Canto dolente d'amore (ultimo giorno di Van Gogh)," alongside the exhibition "Van Gogh, Tra il grano e il cielo," curated by Marco Goldin, Basilica Palladiana, Vicenza
- 2017 "Flying Dreams," curated by Stamperia d'Albicocco, Italian Cultural Institute, Melbourne and Sydney
"Di volta in volta," curated by Alessandra Radaelli, Punto sull'Arte, Varese
"Matteo Massagrande. Lights of Silence," curated by Dr Pedro Tseng, Pontone Gallery Taiwan, Taichung
- 2016 "Quattro pittori per Parise," alongside the exhibition "Storia dell'Impressionismo," curated by Marco Goldin, Museo Santa Caterina, Treviso
"Genius Loci," curated by Vittorio Sgarbi, Fondazione Pio Alferano e Virginia Ippolito, Castellabate, Salerno
"Matteo Massagrande," curated by Péter Fertőszögi of the Kovács Gábor Art Foundation, KOGART Museum, Tihany
- 2015-2016 "Open House," Shine Artists, London
- 2014-2015 "Attorno a Vermeer," curated by Marco Goldin, Palazzo Fava, Bologna
- 2014 "Water Views Century Landscape Watercolourists – Paesaggisti all'acquerello del XXI secolo," curated by Marco Fazzini, TheArtsBox, Vicenza
Solo show within the exhibition "Da Tutankhamon a Van Gogh," curated by Marco Goldin, Museo Civico di Palazzo Chiericati, Vicenza
- 2013 "Matteo Massagrande," curated by Péter Fertőszögi of the Kovács Gábor Art Foundation, KOGART Museum, Budapest
- 2012 Retrospective, curated by Alberto Buffetti and Nino Sindoni, Museo delle Carceri, Asiago
- 2011 "Matteo Massagrande," Albemarle Gallery, London
"54th Venice Biennale on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy," curated by Vittorio Sgarbi, Italian Pavillion, Venice
"7x11 La poesia degli artisti," touring exhibition curated by Marco Fazzini, Fondazione Balestra, Longiano
- 2009 "Massagrande, Scene d'Ungheria," alongside the exhibition dedicated to the European Impressionists L'età di Courbet e Monet, curated by Marco Goldin, Villa Manin, Passariano di Codroipo



Maggio a New York | 2018 | Oil and mixed media on board | 60 x 60 cm (23.6 x 23.6 in)



La finestra di Piero | 2018 | Oil and mixed media on board | 23 x 33 cm (9 x 13 in)



Albero rosso | 2018 | Mixed media on board | 40 x 40 cm (15.7 x 15.7 in)