# **CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION**

CURATED BY GIULIA ZANESI & VANESSA VIT AT EXTERYO S.r.I

ART CATALOGUE 30.11 - 18.12.2023

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#### ART CATALOGUE

curated by Giulia Zanesi & Vanessa Viti

## MICHELE BERLOT

Architect, class of '63. I was born, live and work in Florence.

I don't define myself as a "painter"... I do "else".

Something that first and foremost serves me, a form of expressiveness, tangible, that engages you body and soul but which also manages to give you that sense that we often search for in vain.

I express states of mind, which often change over the course of the creation of a painting and at that point, the best works are born. Here I am in my center.

Because painting. I approached it with a lot of respect, coming from purely studies

technicians and having created digital graphics for years. But the power of working with your hands,

experiment, do and undo, overlap, glue, dirty, scratch, smell, enjoy and to be sorry... I understood all this from the first attempt, which could only reach this way. My painting can be defined as informal, but it is definitely non-gestural informal; has need a base preparation on which to then work, spreading the color so that it does not the brush stroke is perceptible.

And the mechanism is the same, both when the jobs involve the use of paper and glue mixed with color and when I work in a more canonical way: through numerous steps and overlapping materials and colors, I arrive at that formal balance that allows me to consider a work "closed".



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"I.C.R.S.", ACRILICO SU TELA, 2021/2023

Michele Berlot Michele Berlot's art is an extremely fascinating journey and discovery, full of suggestions and endowed with profound care. A style that takes us back to the intimate essence of things, to the origin. The moment we observe a work by the artist we have the possibility of living an experience, the discovery of the material, the chromatic gradations generate real atmospheres that transform into a real intimate and personal dialogue of research and wonder at the same time time. So in this work I.C.R.S all this emerges loudly. A work that becomes a mirror of ourselves. An artist who, through his informal art, gives us moments of great introspection and invites us to reflect on the great value of making art today.

### MAURO BURSI

He was born in Modena where he still lives and works; the city and places of origin are i

landscapes often "photographed" in his works.

Already in adolescence, that artistic talent emerged which - albeit without an adequate academic path - had always been part of his existence with alternating periods of dedication and other long moments of silence.

The profound and painful experiences finally urged the artist to give himself completely to what is his original urgency, that is, the vital expression of emotions and impressions produced by events, landscapes, places, people.

The attention of art lovers and collectors is notable for the freshness and immediacy of his pictorial speech based on pure chromatic sensations; his works are present in numerous private and public collections.

He has several solo exhibitions behind him, especially in the provincial and regional areas, as well as some presences in national group shows. However, only in recent years has it resumed its exhibition activity with renewed intensity, participating in selected events organized by galleries and curators who are mentioned below.

The last presence of primary importance, the invitation to the Venice Biennale 2022 - Grenada Pavilion, experienced as recognition of a talent that has until now been practiced in secret as well as a stimulus towards full and free expressiveness, free from hindrances and reluctance.



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"PROFUMO", ACRILICO SU TELA, 70 X 101 CM 2022



"LIGHT BLUE" ACRILICO SU TELA 68x59 CM 2021 The artist is present with two works in this exhibition which and language of contemporary  $\mathbf{the}$ talent celebrates art characterized by multiple aspects. Mauro Bursi celebrates color and gesture by creating works of great sensitivity, a true chromatic landscape. Thus, looking at his works opens a dialogue with oneself characterized by emotions, reflections, states of mind, concepts and places of passage and discovery. What are these places? perhaps moments, small moments of life, moments of pause or awareness of each of us. The value and importance of being in the world, existing and giving voice to sensations, to what we feel and feel. Mauro Bursi's art offers moments of intense reflection and awareness of the value of each of us as human beings. In the work "Profumo" a decisive gesture emerges, at times more delicate, almost as if to evoke a sensation in our mind. "Light Blue" instead invites us to delve deeper into the importance of color and to let ourselves be lulled into this atmosphere of great impact.

Giulia Zanesi

### **PIERRETTE CLEMENT**

Pierrette Clément is a painter artist borned in Gabon, Africa, then lived in France, New Caledonia and actually in Reunion Island. After years of spanish teaching and an intense professional and social life, the attraction for the art led her to fluid abstract painting, that perfectly corresponds to her passion for bright colors, for imagination and poesy, for interpretation of the marvels of the Universe and the Nature, influenced by her travels and the places she lives in. On the one hand she sees her art as a sort of meditation and therapy in which one she likes that colors get tangled, bump into each other or are in contradiction. On the other hand she wants to invite the viewers in her universe, to give them joy, pleasure, dreams or to make them think about our world, its weaknesses and its strengths.

« I also like that viewers dive in my paintings and mentally escape, according to their imagination and

feelings ». « Fluid abstract painting allows me to let fate acts in some places of the canvas and regain control in others ».

She also runs introductory workshops in Acrylic Pouring so that everyone, young or old, can discover this fulfilling technique and be introduced to art.



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"COUNTDOWN"

The work "Countdown" is imbued with strength that radiates over the entire surface and comes out to invade the surrounding spaces and inebriate the observer. A swirl of bright and lively colours make the composition dynamic and unique. The colour seems to move in a continuous motion and manages to capture the observer's attention making him feel as if he were inside a kaleidoscope, where colours dominate reality. The viewer's gaze ends up inside the circular composition, in a whirlwind of colours and then expands all around.

## YUNA GALEJEVA

Painter and musicologist, member of the group of painters "Nine Winds".

1972 - born in Siberia (Krasnokamensk), now living in Vilnius, Lithuania. Editor for LRT Klasika - a Lithuanian national radio channel dedicated to culture and classical music; also lectures on History of Opera at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre.

More than 30 group exhibitions (Lithuania, Italy, Spain)

For me painting is like composing music on canvas. I like to improvise and strive to make the painting "sound": to make colours and their interrelations as expressive as the chords and tones in music, and the brush strokes and lines a sense of melody and rhythmic pattern. I try to keep the painting open to the viewer's interpretation, so that each time there is something new to see. Just as when listening to music, people hear it differently each time and it is always very individual. I endeavour to make the picture dynamic, with a musical movement, expressing a flow of time and thought. But 'music on canvas' is not an end in itself. The main aim is to express feelings, to transmit an emotional state and awaken associations.



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#### "WINTER MIRROR"



#### "IMPROMPTU CELEBRATION"



Two works, those of Yuna, different from each other but both very evocative. On the one hand, a highly abstract work, in which the main protagonists are the colors, free from contour marks or drawings, they move freely on the canvas. The color of the background, so blue, is intense and makes the work eternal, the other colors stand out above the background in an energetic and vital way. The work appears of great impact, especially in the brightest area, the painting becomes moving. While the other work is much more realistic, even if it has fleeting strokes and brushstrokes that are close to abstract. An almost fairytale landscape, it seems to have come out of a book story, where the winter season is perfectly rendered. The observer seems to immerse himself and imagine a story, to find himself in the setting of a Nordic tale, Yuna gives us the possibility of taking a unique and exciting journey.

Vanessa Viti

## MARIKEN HEIJWEGEN

"All my work comes from unknown places in my head" I paint heads. Self-portraits. My hands help me transform my emotions on the canvas. My language. Sometimes an awful lot happens in your head and no one knows, except you, what's going on there. It can be dark, scary, filled with fears and doubts, obstacles and everything that, I think, is human. Last month I was in a dark place and it was very scary. It was dark in my head and it felt like an explosion of all my fears. Every day I painted a portrait during that time. My paintings reflect feelings like panic attacks, fear, anxiety, insecurities and all mixed emotions. Slowly the paintings are less capricious and less vague. There is slowly coming a person in front of the painting. That person is me. Creativity saved me and helped to deal with my anger and aggression about the whole situation and can I slowly accept who I am. I want to show the world that you don't have to be ashamed about a mental illness and I hope to break taboos. It makes me vulnerable and I think that's a good thing. I want to make the invisible visible.

Welcome to my mental journey and let's start a dialogue.



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#### "SPEECHLESS"



#### **"SMOKE SIGNALS"**



**"TOTAL CHAOS"** 

Mariken's artistic work is imbued with emotions and moods, she represents herself, an intimate representation, through which she talks about herself in the deepest way. Mariken's self-portraits are not real depictions of her face or body, the artist's self-portrait is a real journey into her moods, her thoughts, her feelings. Mariken uses art to transform emotions, and she succeeds very well in this, the faces we observe have a great visual and emotional impact. The artist has the courage to give voice to those states of mind that often become limiting in people, she represents fear, anxiety, insecurity, panic attacks. If on the one hand the spectator finds in front of Mariken and what she feels, on the other hand, however, every observer can see himself, since it is easy to understand certain disturbances, the works are clear and the gaze cannot escape from them, each of us necessarily takes a journey within ourselves.

Vanessa Viti

### EUGENE KURLANDSKY

Eugene Kurlandsky is an artist based in Tel Aviv, Israel. With a Bachelor of Arts focused on photography and painting and a Masters in Architectural Studies, he developed a career in architectural design and arts. Through the years, Eugene shifted focus mainly to Fine Arts, actively participating in exhibitions and art events in Israel, Italy, Germany, France, Japan, and the United States, gaining positive reviews from critics. Eugene likes to touch on modern society's different problems, exploring them through his perception. Also, his works include nature-mort, landscapes, and figurative and abstract paintings. He works using other materials and styles, from conventional painting to digital art and photography, changing the art language to achieve more decisive results. As a result, many of his works found a place in various private collections, public spaces, and galleries.



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"THE MERMADE", 80X60 CM, FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY, 2021



"THE CREATOR", OIL ON CANVAS, 80X60 CM Eugene Kurlandsky's art is characterized by different artistic languages, the pictorial one present here with the work "The Creator" invites us to delve deeper into the concept of creation, the artistic process and the role of the artist often characterized by multiple visions on issues related to society. The human being protagonist here experiences a perhaps double choice or vision but it certainly represents a praise to thought. How many times have we felt torn when making decisions or choices? The intense chromatic aspect as well as the desire to represent simple and essential shapes without going into the smallest details, this allows us to celebrate a universal concept linked to the human being as such. "The Mermade" is a photograph elaborated by the artist which invites us to take a next step: expressing a concept through the evocative power of an image, in this case female. An attentive and constantly evolving artist.

Giulia Zanesi

### MARIA MAKSAKOVA

Born in 1977 in the northern city of Murmansk. In 2018 I moved to Kemi, Finland, where I am managing my own hotel. I devote my leisure time to drawing, which has captivated my interest since early childhood. In my art works, I like to use different techniques, such as watercolour, acrylic, soft pastel, as well a different graphic materials. I get my inspiration from the nature of the north, narrow streets of small towns and architecture.



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#### "LONELINESS"

Maria's artistic work is of great im- pact, the viewer is certainly per- vaded by a feeling of nostalgia since it seems that the works evoke lost times. In every work there is calm, everything is calm and relaxed, it almost seems like being suspended inside a dream. The colors that the artist uses are dark, all of her work is the result of a skillful use of light and dark, of light and shadow.

Maria is very good at making everything extremely real, it seems to smell the fragrances that exude from the wet and humid earth, or even it seems to be able to feel the sensation of cold in front of a lake in the woods in the month of November.

Without a shadow of a doubt, Maria's great talent is to evoke suggestions and emotions, the selected works perfectly describe the theme and feeling of melancholy.

Vanessa Viti

### **SUZY PORTER**

My favourite subject in school was always art but I didn't start painting full time until I was in my mid thirties. I started drawing paintings in pastels and spent a year with an art teacher in Warrandyte back in Australia. Then went on to oils and acrylics. The best thing about painting is time slips away as you explore different thought processes and go into another world. It's a lovely way of communicating feeling and emotions.



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#### "SWANS"



#### "PANSIES"

Suzy's work is balanced and harmonious, her works give a sense of peace. The observer is faced with balanced works, where the subjects are rendered with liveliness and brightness, everything exudes positive energy. The dynamic and thoughtful brushstrokes move on the canvas creating figures, paintings of flowers that not only invade the work but seem to want to come out and take possession of reality. The viewer, in fact, is embraced by the colors and figures that Suzy represents. The artist's great ability lies precisely in knowing how to convey sensations, the observer is pervaded and totally enveloped by new and positive emotions.

Vanessa Viti

### **RITA ROZYNEK**

Collage artist, linguist and freelance translator, born in Zielona Góra in Poland in 1981.

I am currently living in Hannover, Germany, with my partner and two cats. For the creation process I use only scissors, glue, old magazines, and my imagination.

My visions are inspired by surrealism, symbolism and the psychology of C. G. Jung. They are meant to speak to the subconscious, and they often represent universal symbols and archetypes. And lots of spiral shapes.

For me personally, they have always been a form of selftherapy. As a linguist, I initially created collages solely from words – texts in my native language, a kind of automatic writing or weird poetry. But for several years now I have been creating collages from images. They opened the way to my own inner as well as outer world. I also play piano and sing a little, I love spending time in nature harvesting herbs and I practice urban gardening on my balcony.

Welcome to my Universe.



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**"FLORA 2"** 

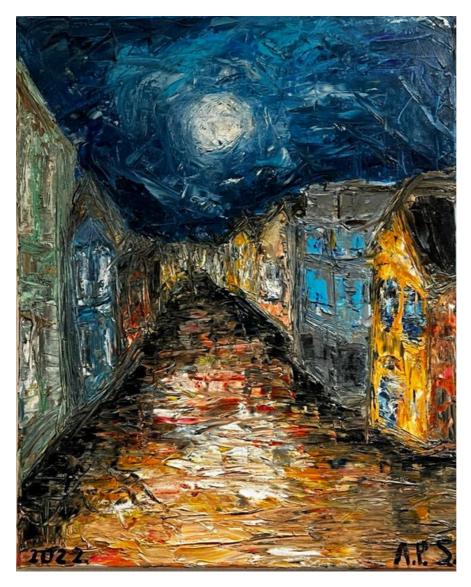
As always, Rita gives us works of great emotional and aesthetic im- pact, even the collage entitled "Flora 2" is proof of this. From a black, dark and gloomy background emerges the human figure, a woman, probably Flora herself, surrounded by natural elements. The goddess Flora is also in black and white, while all the natural details are extremely bright and possess vibrant colors. The work is divided into two, on one side the feeling of darkness and melancholy which is totally balanced by the brightness and joy of the colors. The human figure seems to have a sleepy or perhaps sad look, but at the same time it becomes a symbol of life, it is she who dominates nature and everything that surrounds her.

### ANASTASIA SHEVSHENKO

Anastasia Shevchenko (ANNA SHE) - artist from Ukraine, born in the small town of Pryluky. Anastasia is the daughter of an astrophysicist and an artist. So the path to creating unique universes on canvas was determined. After the death of my father and mother, I felt a double responsibility to create. Mission: through paintings, open portals to new emotions Value: every art has a story, every story has unique vibe art with passion



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"INGOLSTAT"

Anastasia's work is of great aesthetic and technical value. The brushstrokes bring to mind the great impressionist masters. The work appears balanced and the brushstrokes make it dynamic, it seems to see the lights shine, it seems to feel the cold creeping into the street. The work evokes dormant memories, it seems to relive a moment already experienced, as in a dream. The warm and bright colors of the street contrast with the cold tones of the sky, everything perfectly balanced and harmonious. Anastasia is very good at technique but also at rendering emotions, not only that, she is also good at evoking sensations in the viewer, in fact, one is fascinated by her painting. Through her work we travel a journey made of memories and emotions.

Vanessa Viti

## **KAOUTER SOUIBGUI**

Kaouteur Souibgui was born in Saint-Marcellin in 1978. Before setting her sights on painting in October 2019 and exhibiting in a gallery for the first time in 2021 (COVID having cancelled her first exhibition in 2020), she was a German teacher for 10 years. She currently works in Grenoble as a painter and collagist. She regularly takes part in international art competitions, and has already exhibited in Zévaco (near Ajaccio) in Corsica, Paris, Milan and New York. Kaouteur has no particuar artistic training or back- ground, making her a pure self-taught artist. This status gives her great freedom and originality, allowing her to experiment constantly. She has developed her own painting technique, acryling, and her collages are based on the philosophy of Figurative Destructuralism, which she shares. Under no cir- cumstances does she seek to reproduce reality, preferring instead to transcend it. Like her revered poet Charles Baudelaire, she likes to repeat: "Nature is ugly, and I prefer the monsters of my fantasy to pos- itive triviality". As a result, whether on the scale of painting or collage, she proposes to redefine the notion of aesthetics by the yardstick of her own emotions, inventions and, of course, emotions. I just want to add a few details about my collage, it is made with French magazines « Noir et blanc », dating from 1947/1948.





#### **"DESTRUCTURATION 13 INTENSITE"**

The artist Kaouteur creates a unique, extremely interesting and impactful work. Black and white alternate, there is no other color, in fact the artist uses images cut from newspapers dated 1947/1948, so we understand well that the only solution to photographic reproduction is black and white. What the artist proposes is a true journey through history, in fact the visitor approaches images that are not even remotely contemporary, in fact they belong to more than 70 years ago, it becomes interesting to observe the details, clothes, hairstyles so distant in time. The figure of the woman is the protagonist element, everything revolves around her, the work therefore becomes an investigation, for the spectator, encountering Kaouteur's work means looking at a specific theme and making a reflection on it.

### ANA ISABEL RIBEIRO

I'm Portuguese, I'm 46 years old.

I always liked painting very much and from a very early age I made many attempts to learn to paint and as an amateur I was painted since I was 17 years old. I seriously started painting mandalas in 2018 and since then my passion for painting has never stopped, in 2021 I organized several online mandala courses, and organized international events and started teaching. At the same time, in 2021, I also started the study and practice of fluid art and alcohol ink, which I maintain until today, having in 2023 decided to set up my art studio and start selling my arts and holding exhibitions.



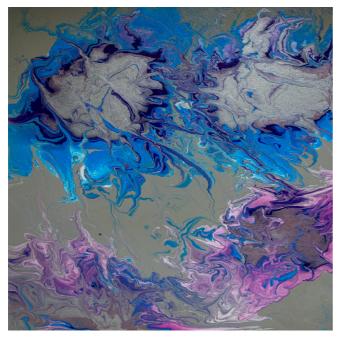
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#### "RED INVASION"



"MAGMA"



"WHITE ESCAPES"



#### **"COLOURS FUSION"**

#### "UNDERFLORA"



Ana Isabel's artistic work has a great emotional impact. We witness a riot of colors, they move on the canvas like the true and only true protagonists of the paintings, guided by the instinct and emotions of Ana Isabel, the spectator, in fact, is enveloped by these colors and absorbs their emotions. The works smell of freedom, the one that the artist uses to express herself without limits, the freedom of the colors that move inside the works, invade all the space granted to them and seem to want to escape and invade the surrounding space. In a continuous succession, the colors intertwine, meet, create new shades, creating balanced and extremely exciting works.

Vanessa Viti

### JILL WALKER

Born in Nottinghamshire in 1975 but lived mostly in County Durham, since a young age always had a desire for stationary and found to be drawing. After college where studied Business and Administration progressed to work within the National Health Service (NHS) for 13 years during which had two children and established a furniture retail business with husband. Meanwhile returned to college and obtained degree in 2011.

Unexpectedly during 2016 suffered a serious health event which defined changes in day to day life, this gradually made the foundations to ease back into art as a hobby, experimenting and found a real desire for painting. This has gone hand in hand as a keen environmentalist, surrounding nature, animals along with a passion of seeking creativity from abstract to beautiful architecture.



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**"PURE INNOCENCE"** 

A tangle of colors, brushstrokes that move boldly within the work, dark colors that meet and clash with the light brushstrokes of brighter tones, within this whirlwind of colors and emotions we find the face of a child. The face appears defined, clear and extremely bright, an innocent and strong gaze is turned towards the side of the work. The child is inside the work but at the same time he is outside of it, his voluminousness is perfectly rendered by the skilfull use of colors, and seems to emerge completely from the background of the work. In the same way, that intense gaze that goes outwards seems to want to create a link with the surrounding reality, therefore a sort of connection with the outside is born.

### NAJI ZEAITER

I am Naji Jamil Zeaiter, originally from Lebanon, specifically Baalbek. Despite earning a law degree from the Lebanese University, my identity transcends the legal realm, finding its true essence in the world of visual arts. Following my academic pursuits, I redirected my trajectory, enrolling in a makeup artist academy in Beirut, where I dedicated over five years to the intricate world of artistic maquillage. This journey ignited a passion for fashion, leading me to the illustrious French fashion school ESMODE in Beirut, where I immersed myself in the captivating allure of colors, prints, and textures.

Five years ago, drawn by its vibrant artistic ambiance, I made the deliberate move to Barcelona—a city where creativity permeates every corner. The challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent confinements in Barcelona prompted a profound connection with painting. Delving into abstract painting during this period, I discovered a natural aptitude for working with colors and textures—a

testament to my background in makeup and fashion. Painting became a refuge, unveiling a latent creativity that demanded expression.

Following the conclusion of the last lockdown in Barcelona, I resolved to amplify my creative pursuits. I embarked on a journey of learning and experimentation with painting at the Espai D'art Art School, signaling a decisive step towards realizing my innate artistic potential. Painting, a creative impulse that has lingered since my youth, now stands as a testament to my evolution on the path to becoming a recognized artist. This journey encapsulates my multidimensional identity, seamlessly blending legal education, makeup artistry, fashion, and the vibrant world of painting—a testament to my ongoing pursuit of artistic fulfillment and selfexpression.





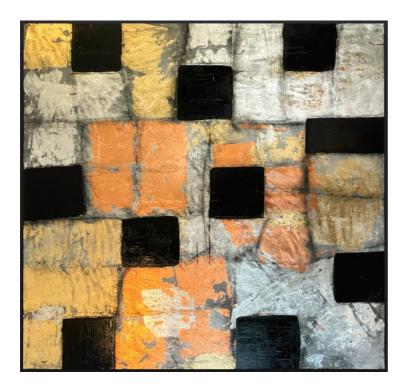
"PULSATING DIMENSIONS" Acrylic 1 x 1 m

"In the intimate expanse of a 1mx1m canvas, "Pulsating Dimensions" unveils a profound narrative through the dynamic interplay of geometric shapes and a kaleidoscopic spectrum. Crafted meticulously with acrylic strokes, this art piece transcends mere aesthetic appeal to weave a tale that beckons contemplation.

The canvas breathes with pulsating life, each square, rectangle, and circle acting as a portal to diverse realms. The multicolored hues – red, blue, orange, brown, yellow – converge and diverge, mirroring the intricate dance of existence. The pulsations within the dimensions echo the heartbeat of the universe, connecting the observer to the cosmic rhythm. As one gazes upon the canvas, layers of meaning unfold. The squares symbolize stability and order, while the rectangles evoke a sense of progression and journey. Circles, seamlessly integrated, represent cycles of life and the eternal, reminding us of the interconnectedness that threads through our shared existence.

The intentional chaos of colors and shapes sparks a dialogue on the complexity of human emotions and experiences. The red hues may signify passion or intensity, blue whispers of tranquility, and orange radiates warmth. Brown earth tones ground the composition, while yellow emanates the energy of sunlight."

Written contribution by Naji Zeaiter



"ECLIPSED BRILLIANCE", Acrylic & Gold Paper 1 x 1 m

"Measuring 1mx1m, "Eclipsed Brilliance" is a mesmerizing symphony of bronzy gold hues and the enchanting allure of golden paper and acrylic. This art piece transcends the boundaries of traditional expression, inviting viewers into a realm where radiance intertwines with shadow, creating a visual tapestry that resonates with depth and sophistication.

The canvas, bathed in bronzy gold, serves as the celestial stage for an intricate dance of square shapes in black, gold, bronze, and silver. Each square, meticulously crafted with the luminosity of acrylic and the luxurious texture of golden paper, contributes to the overall opulence of the composition. The interplay of these rich materials results in a texture that beckons to be touched, adding a tactile dimension to the visual experience. "Eclipsed Brilliance" is a study in contrasts, where the brilliance of gold is both enhanced and muted by the shadows cast. The squares, arranged in a seamless dance across the canvas, create a celestial mosaic that hints at hidden stories and unexplored dimensions. The gold paper, catching the light in delicate folds, introduces an element of dynamism and movement, as though the artwork is alive with a quiet, pulsating energy. The use of bronze, silver, and black within the squares introduces a cosmic harmony. Bronze represents earthly grounding, silver hints at the ethereal, and black signifies the mysterious depths of the cosmos. The arrangement of these elements suggests a cosmic alignment, where brilliance is momentarily eclipsed, giving rise to a contemplative atmosphere."

Written contribution by Naji Zeaiter

On the occasion of this exhibition, the artist digitally exhibited two works that represent not only visual, but also sensorial experiences. In "Pulsating Dimensions" we can see the representation using acrylic colors of colored geometric shapes aimed at taking us back to the origins and rediscovering meaning depth of life. Circles, squares and rectangles are the real protagonists in a succession of colours, but all of them in relation to each other despite their specific differences. Returning to our roots means reclaiming ourselves of the profound sense of who we are and what we desire. The colors perhaps suggest the emotions that we constantly live in our daily lives in a dense web of relationships that make up one great work of art. A framework where you can live a life experience and above all deepen its value of human relationships.

In the work "Eclipsed Brilliance" a chromatic and geometric story characterized by emerges loudly a dense pattern of squares, what does the artist intend to communicate to us? Maybe he wants us to have an experience characterized stylistically by the alternation of squares made with different colors and with the use of paper golden creating an interesting play of light and shadow, a true chromatic story rich in inspirations and suggestions, thus giving a moment of pure contemplation to those who observe the work if they can decide freely, therefore make a choice whether to live an experience by putting yourself out there and comparing yourself with himself by giving himself a moment of pure personal contemplation or remaining on the surface admiring the simplicity of stylistic mastery.

Giulia Zanesi