

Carnival

A Solo Exhibition by Francesco Bocchini

20 January – 24 March 2018

On **20 January at 6 pm**, *Carnival*, a solo exhibition by **Francesco Bocchini**, opens at **Studio Cenacchi**, Via Santo Stefano 63, Bologna.

A sound, a suggestion. Reality turned upside down.

At the heart of the exhibition, around which everything seems to revolve in a compelling yet precarious dreamlike balance, is **Grünewald's Crucifixion**. The delicacy and almost mannered grace of buds and luxuriant flowers merge with the force of a savage, thorny, corrupt and deformed nature. Thorns intertwine — the same thorns that torment a bruised and already decaying body — while countless monsters emerge from branches poised in unstable equilibrium.

Things are not what they seem.

A carnival overturns the established order. Behind its masks, truth is concealed and identities become fluid. It is a game of memory that evokes the temporary release of madness, while calling to mind **Goya and his *Caprichos*** and the delirious imagery of **Bosch**.

Within this suspension of reality, the chromatic intensity of *Amor Celeste Turchino* enters into dialogue with the diseased brightness of *Flower Noise*, dominated by a bewildering, deafening, jaundiced yellow. Space becomes dense and overloaded, filled with an aggressive mass of pointed thorns and sharp-edged metal, as though echoing the torn openings, cuts and voids of **Fontana's *La Fine di Dio***.

Throughout *Carnival*, images and references continually fold back upon one another. On paper, photographs, cut-outs and oil paint are brought together in collages that simultaneously reveal and conceal. Faces disappear, gazes are obscured: as in a masked procession, identities dissolve and become something else.

The carnival procession continues through a series of mechanisms that turn endlessly without purpose, caught in a ramshackle yet inescapable cycle.

Bocchini's chosen materials allow for flights of imagination and considerable technical virtuosity, yet they are themselves industrial remnants and discarded matter, held together through the toxic fumes of molten lead, electrode welding and adhesives.

Things are not what they seem.

FRANCESCO BOCCHINI

Francesco Bocchini was born in Cesena in 1969 and graduated from the **Academy of Fine Arts of Bologna**.

Roberta Bertozzi writes:

Moving freely between painting and sculpture, Bocchini experimented with a wide range of materials before turning to tinsplate, enamelled iron and reclaimed metals. From these materials emerge mechanisms, installations, display cases and strange forms of vegetation, sometimes painted in oils and brought together in an accomplished mixture of irony and tragedy.

He has also collaborated extensively with the theatre, creating sets, stage machinery and costumes in metal.

Since the mid-1990s, his work has been presented in solo and group exhibitions in Italy and abroad, in both private galleries and public spaces.

STUDIO CENACCHI

Galleria Studio Cenacchi was founded in 2016 out of **Jacopo Cenacchi's** research into and passion for contemporary art.

The gallery occupies **160 square metres across three floors** of **Palazzo Ghiselli Vasselli**, a sixteenth-century building at Via Santo Stefano 63, in the heart of Bologna.

Its programme brings together artists working across a wide range of media. Studio Cenacchi works directly with the artists it promotes, with a rigorous focus on the quality of the works of art it presents, representing both established and contemporary artists from Italy and abroad.

The gallery also offers a dedicated **art advisory service for the acquisition of works of art**, as well as on-site consultations to develop **bespoke art placement projects for private homes and professional spaces**.

STUDIO CENACCHI ARTE CONTEMPORANEA

Via Santo Stefano 63 — 40125 Bologna

+39 051 265517 | info@studiocenacchi.com

Tuesday to Saturday, 3.30–7 pm, or by appointment