

Unstable Ecologies. Where Everything Transforms

Roberta Cavallari – Sabrina Muzi

Curated by Raffaele Quattrone

PRESS RELEASE

On **5 May**, *Unstable Ecologies. Where Everything Transforms* opens at **Galleria Studio Cenacchi** in Bologna. Curated by **Raffaele Quattrone**, the exhibition brings the work of **Roberta Cavallari** and **Sabrina Muzi** into dialogue.

The exhibition creates a space of tension between two ways in which reality is continually altered, regenerated and redefined. At its heart lies an implicit question: what does it mean to look at a landscape today? And, above all, what remains invisible within what we believe we see?

In **Sabrina Muzi's** works, the gaze moves closer to the undergrowth, adopting an intimate scale that excludes the horizon and focuses instead on minute fragments: shrubs, leaves, blades of grass, patches of earth. Filtering through the foliage, light does not illuminate evenly but selects, cuts into and isolates. Sudden apparitions emerge, areas of visual intensity that reveal relationships between forms which would normally remain imperceptible.

These images are not simply transcriptions of reality, but layers of experience: memories of walks in which the landscape reveals itself only for a fleeting moment. The undergrowth becomes a liminal space, hidden and shadowed, where decomposition coincides with generation and a silent but continuous process of transformation takes place.

This dimension is connected to the concept of **Viriditas** developed by **Hildegard of Bingen**, who understood nature as possessing an autonomous vital force, capable of regeneration, healing and persistence through every form of crisis. Here, painting becomes a means of revelation, making visible what grows beyond the field of immediate perception.

While Muzi explores emergence and an invisible vitality, **Roberta Cavallari** introduces a subtle fracture into the visible. Although her paintings retain a figurative basis, slight dislocations alter the relationships between their elements, creating a persistent sense of misalignment.

Apparently neutral interiors, often devoid of human presence, become suspended spaces in which architecture, perspective and sources of light assume an almost structural importance. In her landscapes, signs of human or technological intervention begin to appear: screens displaying unreal atmospheric images, natural forms acquiring artificial qualities, geometric elements entering the scene as ambiguous presences, somewhere between constructed objects and digital simulations.

These anomalies do not produce obvious ruptures. They work through subtle shifts, entering almost imperceptibly into our perception and revealing a transformation that is already under way.

The world Cavallari depicts is not a hypothetical future, but the present itself, seen through the conditions of the **Anthropocene**, where nature and artifice have become profoundly intertwined.

The dialogue between the two artists is therefore not built around an opposition between the natural and the artificial, but around a more complex and distinctly contemporary tension: on one side, a force that continues to generate and regenerate; on the other, a transformation that profoundly alters the conditions of the visible.

Within this intermediate space, painting takes on both a critical and perceptual role. Rather than simply representing the world, it questions its thresholds, bringing into view those processes — natural or cultural — that operate beneath or beyond our immediate perception.

Unstable Ecologies thus becomes a field of attention: an invitation to linger at the point where everything transforms, where growth and mutation, continuity and alteration coexist without resolution, continually redefining the ways in which we inhabit and perceive reality.

ROBERTA CAVALLARI

Roberta Cavallari, born in Ferrara, studied at the **Academy of Fine Arts of Bologna**.

In the late 1990s, during a residency in Berlin, she encountered the striking contrasts of a city undergoing profound transformation: disused industrial spaces, avant-garde architecture and post-industrial interiors that would become recurring elements in her visual research.

At the same time, the emergence of cyberpunk culture and the spread of the Internet had a significant impact on her imagination, influencing both the themes and aesthetics of her work, alongside a growing interest in atmospheres and visual constructions associated with **Neo-Metaphysical art**.

Her paintings and drawings bring realistic elements into dialogue with abstract forms, creating suspended and ambiguous spaces through which she explores alienation, social change, historical memory and the human-altered landscape.

Over time, her practice has expanded to include performance, video and photography, while retaining a conceptual focus on space, perception and forms of identity in contemporary life.

Her work has been presented in numerous exhibitions internationally, including the **54th Venice Biennale**.

SABRINA MUZI

Sabrina Muzi's practice develops an imagery shaped by a continuing dialogue with landscape, the experience of place, nature, cultures and rituals, moving between painting and drawing and installation-based interventions.

Active since the 1990s, she developed her practice within Bologna's vibrant artistic environment and has taken part in numerous residency and research programmes, particularly in Asia, whose cultures have become an important point of dialogue with her own.

In 2012, she won the **Premio Terna** with a site-specific work exploring mimicry between natural and architectural space, created in the Marche Apennines.

In 2017, she developed a project in **Shenzhen**, spending a month living in a Chinese urban village undergoing gentrification and demolition. That same year, she spent time in a rural village at the foot of the **Great Wall of China**, where her research focused on the mountain and the surrounding landscape.

Her exhibitions include *Kahuna*, curated by L. Regano, Ex Chiesa di San Mattia, Bologna; *Shān*, curated by L. Biolchini, Rocca di Vignola; *Wandering Baishizhou*, OCT-Loft C2 Gallery, Shenzhen; *Temps D'arret*, La Chambre Blanche, Quebec; *Intramondo*, mtn, Bologna; *Legami Fragili*, curated by R. Quattrone, various venues; *Eccentriche Nature*, curated by P. Fameli, CUBO, Bologna; and *Illiminale*, curated by OSA, Spazio Tempesta, Recanati.

USEFUL INFORMATION

TITLE: *Unstable Ecologies. Where Everything Transforms*

ARTISTS: Roberta Cavallari and Sabrina Muzi

CURATED BY: Raffaele Quattrone

VENUE: Galleria Studio Cenacchi, Via Santo Stefano 63, Bologna

OPENING: 5 May 2026, 6 pm

DATES: 5 May – 4 June 2026

OPENING HOURS: Tuesday to Saturday, 4.30–7.30 pm, or by appointment

SPECIAL OPENING HOURS: Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 May, 10 am–7 pm, during

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FREE ADMISSION