ATTILIO MELFI

Istanti (Instants)

Curated by Emanuela Agnoli

24 February – 23 March 2024

On Saturday 24 February 2024 at 5 pm, *Istanti*, a solo exhibition of oil paintings on canvas by Attilio Melfi, opens at Galleria Studio Cenacchi, Via Santo Stefano 63, Bologna. Curated by Emanuela Agnoli, Melfi's first exhibition at the gallery brings together more than twenty previously unseen paintings made over the preceding two years.

The medium- and large-format works draw inspiration from the artist's native Salento, with coastal and urban views, as well as Bologna and its surroundings and Rome at night. These distant and varied places are united by what the curator calls, in the title of her accompanying essay, 'The Enigma of the Instant': the 'zero moment' of the emotions experienced by the artist at the precise instant he photographs the landscape before him, later to be translated into painting.

Emanuela Agnoli writes:

'From seascapes to glimpses of the city, the paintings of Attilio Melfi, born in Brindisi but Bolognese by adoption, convey the emotions of the moment, the poetry of light, the feeling of places close to the heart, and the memory and nostalgia of one's roots. [...]

'The emotion of painting guides the artist's hand, giving rise to the aesthetic pleasure of savouring a moment, a view, a panorama. What has been seen and experienced is reconsidered and reworked through the inner eye, which makes it something unique, outside time and space.'

She also observes that Melfi's works reveal:

'An attentive, delicate way of looking at the world, one that refuses to be hurried and continues to question itself. The artist returns to many details, revisiting and adjusting them even after some time has passed, constantly challenging himself in a sustained, at times perfectionist search for that intense, perhaps magical instant he experienced — an instant he wishes to bring fully to life again for sensitive viewers who look, become involved and may even be moved.'

Melfi's canvases are richly layered, filled with contrasts of light and a profound feeling for the beauty around us. The artist communicates this beauty to those willing to take the time to look closely. Although varied in subject, the paintings are united by his desire to convey that precise moment of revelation.

ATTILIO MELFI

Attilio Melfi was born in Brindisi in 1964. In 1984 he moved to Bologna, which became his adopted city and where he still lives and works. He studied Civil Engineering there, graduating in 1990.

After a long career that took him around the world to work on major construction and infrastructure projects, he rediscovered his passion for art and painting in 2017. He began with urban settings, working predominantly in oils on canvas.

Selected solo exhibitions:

Attimo zero, Galleria Incinque Open Art Monti, Rome, 4–5 November 2022.

Le marine del duemila, Palazzo Nervegna, Brindisi, 10–18 September 2021.

Fuori tempo, Galleria B4, Bologna, 19 February – 20 March 2021.

L'altra stagione, Galleria Incinque Open Art Monti, Rome, 18–20 September 2020.

Uquadro2, Galleria B4, Bologna, 23 November 2019 – 18 January 2020.

Selected group exhibitions:

Extinction, Teatro Romano, Bologna, January 2020.

Paratissima 2020 – Rebirthing, Turin, 18 June – 25 July 2021.

Lucca Art Festival, Lucca, 29 May – 6 June 2021.

attiliomelfi.com

USEFUL INFORMATION

TITLE: *Istanti* — more than twenty oil paintings on canvas

ARTIST: Attilio Melfi

CURATED BY: Emanuela Agnoli

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

OPENING: Saturday 24 February 2024, 5 pm

PUBLIC OPENING DATES: 27 February – 23 March 2024

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

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