

Claudio Verna Beautiful Life

Curated by Davide Ferri

Opening October 7th 2023, h. 18-21

October, 7 – December, 2, 2023

Saturday 7th October 2023, LABS Contemporary Art is pleased to present *Beautiful life*, the solo show of **Claudio Verna** curated by **Davide Ferri**. The exhibition includes mostly paintings from 2000s, punctuated by some works from 70s, i.e. from the period when Verna was one of the major figures in Analytical Painting

However *Beautiful Life* does not have claim to be exhaustive, but in an inevitably partial way, it covers a wide span of time, a research for a lifetime, ideally between two extremities: the 70s, that are one of the most important time for the artist's research and his recent work, capable of express a renewed vitality and quality that belong to Verna's painting since his beginnings: the pulsing and vibratile relationship between geometry - whose lines and surface marks derive through emanation from the painting as object, as body, considered in its materiality - and color, a color that can counters this geometry, or pointing out, but making its boundaries porous and perpetually unstable.

The ability of color to explore the surface in all its parts, in the middle as well as the margins, organized in bands and lines that follow and contrast the perimeter and the shape of the painting. A sort of agility of the color, which translates in the succession and articulation between planes and layers, that have built the image, with colors that seem emerging on the surface, squaring and dotting the dominant field. As in *Beautiful Life*, the painting of which the title of the exhibition derives, a white "almost monochrome" whose surface is contaminated by an infinity of undertones that make it vibrate by contrast or by fading and increasing of intensity.

Claudio Verna (1937, Guardiagrele, Chieti)

Lives and works in Rome.

From 1942 to 1956 he studied in Umbria, then to the University of Florence, where he graduated with a thesis on "Figurative arts in industrial civility" and where he held his first important shows. He arrived in Rome in 1961 where he returned to exhibitions in 1967, after a five year exhibition break.

After his debut at Galleria Numero of Florence in 1960, his solo shows and his participation to retrospective are more than one hundred-twelve in Italy and abroad, including:

Galleria Arco d'Alibert, Roma, 1968; Biennale di Venezia, 1970 e 1980; Galleria dell'Ariete, Milano, 1970; Galleria Martano, Torino, 1970; Galleria Editalia (poi Edieuropa), Roma, 1971, 1995 e 2003; Galerie M, Bochum, 1972; Galleria del Milione, Milano, 1973, 1976 e 1979; Studio La Città, Verona, 1975 e 1978; Galleria La Bertesca, Genova 1976 e Düsseldorf, 1977; Galerie Arnesen, Copenhagen, 1977; Galleria Marlborough, Roma, 1977; Galerie Artline, Den Haag, 1979; Studio Marconi, Milano, 1983; Studio Mara Coccia, Roma, 1986, 1991, 2008 e 2011; Museo di Gibellina, 1988; Westend Galerie, Francoforte, 1989, 1997 e 2002; Galleria Fumagalli, Bergamo, 1993 e 1998; Galleria Comunale di Spoleto, 1994; PAC di Ferrara, 1997; Palazzo Sarcinelli, Conegliano Veneto, 1998; Museo Laboratorio di Arte Contemporanea, Università La Sapienza, Roma, 1999; Casa dei Carraresi, Treviso, 2000; Museo Nazionale d'Abruzzo, L'Aquila, 2007; Galleria progettoarte-elm, Milano, 2011; Fondazione Mudima, Milano, 2012; Galleria Monitor, Roma, 2013 e New York 2014; Marc Selwyn Fine art, Los Angeles, 2015; Cardi Gallery, Londra, 2018; Museo MAG, Riva del Garda, 2018; Galleria Cardi, Milano, 2018; Galleria Monitor, Roma, 2018; Marco Ghigi, Bologna/San Lazzaro, 2019; Stazione di Posta, San Gemini, 2022; Banca Generali Private, Roma, 2023; Premio Bugatti-Segantini alla Carriera, Nova Milanese, 2023.

Simultaneously Verna is in several collective shows and international exhibition, including:

“Per pura pittura”, Trieste, 1972; “Prospect '73”, Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf, 1973; “Italy two, art around '70”, Philadelphia, 1973; “Iononrappresentonullaiodipingo”, Studio La Città, Verona, 1973; “Tempi di percezione”, Livorno, Genova, Firenze e Krefeld, 1973; “La riflessione sulla pittura”, Acireale, 1973; “Empirica”, Rimini e Verona, 1975; “Analitische Malerei”, Düsseldorf, 1975; “Cronaca”, Modena, 1976; “I colori della pittura”, ILLA Roma, 1976; “Apparent contrasts – Sedici artisti italiani”, Museo Boymans-Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, 1977; “L'Italie aujourd'hui”, Nizza, 1985; “Astratta”, Musei di Darmstadt e Verona, 1988; “Orientamenti dell'arte italiana – Roma 1947/1989”, Mosca e Leningrado, 1989; “Sincronias”, Musei di San Paolo e Rio de Janeiro, 1990; “Il miraggio della liricità. Arte astratta in Italia dopo il 1945”, Stoccolma, 1991; “Pittura analitica”, Museo di Galliate, 2003; “Pittura '70”, Fondazione Zappettini, Chiavari e Istituti italiani di cultura di Praga e Londra, 2004/2006; “Pittura analitica 1970/1980”, Permanente di Milano, 2007; “Viaggio nell'arte italiana 1950/1980”, Musei di Santiago del Cile, Lima, Buenos Aires e Guadalajara, 2008; “Pensare pittura”, Museo Villa Croce, Genova, 2009; “Il grande gioco”, Milano, 2010; “Arte astratta in Italia 1930/1980”, Estorick Collection, Londra, 2012; “Un'idea di pittura. Astrazione analitica ieri e oggi”, Museo di Udine, 2015; “Visione analitica”, Villa Brandolini, Pieve di Soligo, 2015; “Pittura analitica ieri e oggi”, Galleria Marella, Milano, 2015; “Le stanze di Aragona”, Palermo, 2015; “Pittura analitica 1970s”, Galleria Mazzoleni, Londra 2016 e Torino 2017; “Gli anni della pittura analitica”, Palazzo della Gran Guardia, Verona, 2016; “Pittura analitica. Origini e continuità”, Villa Contarini di Piazzola sul Brenta e Rocca di Umbertide, 2017; “100% Italia” (Cent'anni di Capolavori), Biella, Vercelli, Torino, 2018; “Italia moderna”, Palazzo Buontalenti, Pistoia, 2019; “Arte contemporanea in Umbria”, Palazzo Baldeschi, Perugia, 2019; “Il disegno, il disegno sempre ricominciato”, Accademia di San Luca, Roma, 2021; “Omaggio a Rocco Scotellaro”, GNAM, Roma, 2023.

In 2008 the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei awards him the “Antonio Feltrinelli” prize for painting. He was appointed National Academician of San Luca.

In 2010 was published his catalogue raisonné of his work curated by Volker W. Feierabend and Marco Meneguzzo, for Silvana Editore, Cinisello Balsamo (MI).

Beautiful Life - Claudio Verna

On display from 7th October to 2nd December 2023

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LABS Contemporary Art

Via Santo Stefano 38, Bologna

From Thursday to Saturday, from 10AM to 1PM and from 3PM to 7PM.