

Aldo Grazzi

Illusions

From December 17th, 2022, to February 18th, 2023

Opening on Saturday, December 17th at 5 pm

Galleria Marignana Arte

Dorsoduro, 141, Rio Terà dei Catecumeni, Venice

Marignana Arte is hosting the second personal exhibition of Aldo Grazzi. During his eclectic and compelling career, Grazzi faced the challenges of recent decades with the impetus of a rebel capable of placing the complex relationship between reality, dreams and the search for freedom at the centre of his poetics. Starting from this assumption - that of freedom and dreams - the title "Illusions", defined by the artist for this exhibition, will certainly not be an invitation to the dreamer's idle wanderings, but on the contrary will reflect a conscious impulse towards the authenticity of living.

The exhibition will focus in particular on one series by the artist, that of the interwoven beads, which runs from 1988 to the present day.

Among the exhibited works, the first to welcome the audience is *Uscito senza scopo nella nebbia* (Gone Aimlessly through the Fog). The visitors will therefore be invited from the very beginning of the exhibition to question all forms of utilitarianism - *aimless* is the art of weaving beads, a repeated gesture, which in the words of Kant translates into the free play of intellect and imagination, as an art that rejects all forms of conformism must be.

Along with the fascination of the jewellery of Maasai art, of which Grazzi became an interpreter, the sarcasm and desecrating irony expressed in the constant experimentation of the artistic languages will also be proposed and highlighted in the exhibition. "The myths" (this is the title of the series of works), is the result of collective illusions, which, however, seems to affirm that once the dimension of illusion has been eliminated, man no longer has hope, except that of a sad and even dangerous conservatism. Therefore, we will necessarily have to go beyond - *al di là*, in Italian - as *aldilà sarà* (beyond will be) the title of the series of works exhibited at the end of this exhibition path, as visionary as it is profoundly philosophical. By "going beyond" it may be possible to glimpse the sense that animates the free and unconditional impulse through which Grazzi wants us to observe time, our dreams, our illusions and our deepest hopes.

Marignana Arte

The works on display emphasise a journey of inner rebellion that is never an end in itself, in which provocation is the instrument and not the aim of a poetics of elsewhere, not a compass that guides the way, but a proud quest aimed at profoundly human and never too human values. From the freedom of a wandering imagination, from the symmetries of colours that artfully and patiently weave plots derived from interior and geographic journeys, one moves into the depths of a spirituality that only finds tranquillity in the eventual vision, proposed in the exhibition, of the work *Amore, vita e luce* (Love, Life and Light), almost a confession of a "mystical anarchist", as the artist defines himself, who seems to suggest how, precisely through illusion, one can glimpse the different appearances of becoming.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue with contributions by Luca Massimo Barbero, Annarosa Buttarelli, Walter Loddi and Jonathan Molinari.

BIOGRAPHY

Aldo Grazi was born in 1954 in Pomponesco (Mantua). He currently lives and works in Perugia, after many years spent in Venice. He taught Painting and Extramedial Techniques at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia (the Venice Academy of Fine Arts) and began his career in the early 1970s. During this phase he developed an approach to conceptuality that took various forms (photography, video, painting, etc.). In the second half of the 1980s, his artistic research evolved and intertwined with his role as curator of exhibition events (Rapido Fine, Traviata, etc.), achieving a clear discontinuity with the decade marked by the Transavantgarde and contributing to the emergence of a new cultural climate yearned by a new generation of artists in their early days. At the same time, he became involved as a musician in the Italian alternative scene, weaving relations with the visual arts. In particular, he exhibited at the concert of the cult group James Chance and the Contorsions and played with groups from the Bologna music scene and with Stefano Castagna. Grazi progressively felt the need to develop his work by concentrating exclusively on his own aesthetic making, secluding himself from the previous artistic climate, marked by the tendency to share. He thus elaborated a gestuality of making that became a virtuous, complex and all-embracing exercise.

Opening hours: Thursday to Saturday, 11am to 7pm

From Sunday to Tuesday open by appointment only

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