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Giulia Napoleone
VERSO CIELO

Curated by di Roberto Lacarbonara

Opening: Wednesday 2 October 2024, 6.30 pm
from 2 October to 11 December 2024

ETworks Studio | ROMA, via dei Marsi 41

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Press Release

On Wednesday 2 October 2024 at 6.30 pm opens the personal exhibition of Giulia Napoleone (Pescara, 1936) entitled "Verso Cielo", curated by Roberto Lacarbonara in the ETworks Studio exhibition space in Rome, via dei Marsi 41 (San Lorenzo district). The exhibition - the first entirely dedicated to a guest artist, following the dialogues and collective exhibitions undertaken with Tamburi's work - is created with the collaboration of Sergio Pandolfini of Edizioni Il Bulino.

The "verse" in the exhibition's title links a direction and a composition: turning your gaze to the sky and dedicating poetry and images to it, a form that emerges from a perennial search.
Giulia Napoleone's works arise from the need to define a different writing, free of words yet organised by sequences, orders, measures, rhythms, and scores. To the colour, she entrusts the task of recording every minimal variation of feeling, a colour that the artist prefers for its similarities to the sky: blue, which, inheriting the centuries-old experiences of painting, here declines in the infinite modulations of the nuance or is concentrated, thickening, in the multiple lines of the horizontal application.
The act of painting - calibrated and reiterated, adhering to unwritten rules, like a ritual - delivers its almost architectural traces, structures, and organised sequences to paper and canvas. In the squares that cut and modulate washed-out backgrounds, in the extension of the famous "landscapes of dots", or in the geometries seduced by gradual variations of light, the artist practices in the indistinct space of colour to reach an order, a formal register: it's like taming the infinite, ploughing the sky, transcending the sensitive data through control, analysis, patient and thoughtful discipline.
"All the understanding of things happens through poetry. Everything corresponds to a verse", claims Napoleone. Just as understanding is a gain in clarity, a desire for reason, equally, painting is finding a path in the fog, in the dust, in the twilight light of the morning. For her, painting has minimal and sensitive plasticity; it thickens and thins out, concentrates in points and segments, or fades into the collaboration of the paper, the margins, and the surrounding space, merging with reality. This balance between the depth

of the sign and the surface of the supports and matrices derives from the decades spent in the practice of the burin. In the dense web of lines and chromatic fields, the gaze investigates and recognises the change of time, a season, and a perpetual renewal of the first lights that announce a new sky.

Biographical Notes

Giulia Napoleone (Pescara, 1936, lives and works between Rome and the Tuscia of Viterbo), following an education defined around the languages of poetry, classical music and photography, dedicates herself to painting and, mainly, to graphics. Since 1965, she has been a researcher, then a teacher (1974-76) at the National Chalcography of Rome, forming a study partnership with Guido Strazza. In 1967, she perfected her studies in graphic techniques at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam.
Engraving and other direct techniques (burin, black manner, drypoint) are privileged and pleasant means of expression, alongside watercolour, pastel and ink drawing. In the first works, the use of minimal signs or units emerges, laid out in abstract textures or inspired by plant forms and imaginary landscapes; later, she turned her interests to research on light, chromatic transitions and the compositional rhythm of line and sign, but also to the well-known "landscapes of dots" created with ink, watercolour or pencil. Through a meticulous and restrained approach, her works on paper invite close examination, revealing their subtle perceptual effects.
Giulia's works have been exhibited in important galleries and institutions including: Galleria Numero, Florence, 1963; Obelisk Gallery, Rome, 1973; The National Art Quadrennial, Rome, 1986 and 1999; Musée des Beaux-Arts de la Ville, Le Locle, Switzerland, 1990; Palazzo Martinengo, Brescia, 1995; Villa dei Cedri Museum, Bellinzona, Switzerland, 2001; Cabinet of drawings and prints of the Uffizi, Florence, 2011. In 2018, the important retrospective at the National Gallery of Modern Art in Rome. In 2020, the solo show at the Il Ponte Gallery in Florence curated by Bruno Corà and in 2023, the solo show at the Roman headquarters of the Richard Saulton Gallery.

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Verso Cielo
Curated by Roberto Lacarbonara
ETworks Studio, via dei Marsi 41, Roma
Opening: Wednesday 2 October 2024, 6.30 pm
From 2 October to 11 December 2024. Free entrance
Hours: Monday and Friday, 4.00 – 7.00 pm. The other days by appointment
Information: +39 333 2716953 / etamburiworks@gmail.com