

Amplified dimensions

Gregory de la Haba

text by Massimo Scaringella

vernissage on Saturday, September 16th, 2023 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
from September 19th to October 31th, 2023

marina bastianello gallery is pleased to announce the opening of its second location in the historic centre of Venice. Strategically located in the heart of the city, "at the end or at the beginning of a *calle*, just before or just after a bridge", in the **Cannaregio district at no. 1865A**, the new venue will host works by national and international artists, helping to support innovation in the contemporary art scene and to create a bridge between artists, collectors and enthusiasts. The artistic director Marina Bastianello has always considered Mestre as a fertile ground for cultural incubation. For its part, the new Venetian location marks a phase of full maturity, preserving an essential thread between the two galleries.

For the occasion, the solo exhibition of the artist **Gregory de la Haba** *Amplified dimensions*, with a text by **Massimo Scaringella**, will be presented (from September 19th to October 14th, 2023, vernissage on Saturday September 16th, 2023 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.). On display are a selection of digitally printed works on canvas on the themes of addiction, gambling, contemporary notions of masculinity and *duende*, a heightened state of emotion, expression and authenticity derived from pure artistic expression. Most of the artist's work is autobiographical in nature and forged directly from personal experiences.

"...Creation lives as a genesis under the visible surface of the work."

Paul Klee

Text by Massimo Scaringella

Among the expressive means, painting is the most used, the most authentic and natural, and, at the same time, the most abstract, pure meaning in which the center of the creativity of the form is accentuated, following its genesis step by step. Paul Klee always says "at the beginning there is the action... above is the idea". The work therefore represents for the artist an experimental and spontaneous moment of creative ideation. Where the formation of the image clearly testifies, the sign as writing which, coming out of the unconscious, becomes visual thought. And in his works Gregory de la Haba expresses the sense of a visual essentiality, only apparently confused, but structurally linked to the ironic and colorful vision of life. Expressing with his irrepressible sign a misleading gestural line, guided by a manual vehemence, an identity full of an emotional and cultural expressionism inserted in a solid reality. The structure of each work is therefore composed as the expression of a non-verbal thought, transformed into an articulated and consolidated structure in the revelation of reality. Where a stylistic exercise is gathered capable of transforming a desire, in the irony of creativity, into an expansion of time and space. Stains, rapid signs, chromatic arrogance dispute the definition of space, contending with nature and poetry for the restless search for formal solutions in the work. "Art is always organized around the emptiness of the impossible and real thing". (Lacan)

In this series of works called "Amplified Dimensions", specially composed for this occasion, the artist establishes, with his gestures, a relationship with life, evolving the way of seeing beyond the aesthetic expression in a condition of fantastic privilege. But again he looks not outside, but inside: inside its origins, inside its being, choosing the ideal gesture, the ideal shape, between proportions to contradict, colors to exhibit, words to suggest

and dreamlike signs to sublimate. In making art Gregory de la Haba does not make any concessions to the style, to the needs of the viewer, but the tenacious and patient chasing of the sign in search of the canvas expresses something that is there, that exists. In this way a poetic dimension arises in which space, movement, rhythm, light and vibration are elements referable to objective emotional spaces of a dreamlike vision, in which, once again, the sign is never entrusted to pure instinct but to a creative and structured need.

In this phase of his work Gregory de la Haba wants us to believe that the stimulating and at the same time provocative idea of making art is to enter the anarchy of the absence of the structure. But on the contrary these works, full of light and color, refer to a concrete vision of today's world, in which the artist is well aware of the assimilations that derive from the various cultural crossroads encountered during his formative and creative path. To mean that in any case art, even today, always remains the only existential segment between human hope and poetry.

Gregory de la Haba - A cum laude graduate of Harvard University and a classically trained painter, de la Haba is an exemplary practitioner of fine art whose conceptual practice resists categorization. De la Haba's work has been exhibited internationally, including Salzach Biennial, Salzburg Arts Festival, Queens Museum, Kunsthaus Tacheles, Sylt Art Fair, Contemporary Istanbul, Design Week Milan, Mykonos Biennale, SCOPE Art Show, Art Miami, and Art Southampton. Most recently, his art was selected for inclusion in the Larnarca Biennale 2023, Cyprus. The artist has been featured in a number of international publications including The New York Times, The New York Post, BILD, The New Yorker, Southampton Review, Rizzoli's Irish America, and New York Arts Magazine. Gregory de la Haba is represented by Geuer & Geuer Art GmbH, Düsseldorf, Germany.



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