

Luciano Ventrone
Malinconia Romantica



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Born in 1942, Luciano Ventrone lives and works in his native Italy. A highly successful painter, with an impressive CV of international exhibitions, his work is collected worldwide. Pontone Gallery is proud to present this exceptional collection of compelling still-life paintings.

The artist effects a forensic examination and meticulous rendering of the fruit and flowers which form his subject. Fastidiously arranged and carefully lit, he reveals the simple, everyday beauty of cherry, grape, lemon and rose. He lavishes his attention on describing rich and subtle colour and texture, articulated by a masterful representation of light. These paintings are bravura acts of technical accomplishment, which echo those of Caravaggio and the great Dutch still-life painters: Andreas Bosschaert and Jan Davidz de Heem.

Ventrone's pictures strive to locate the essence of his subject through the discipline of technique, artfully-structured composition and exclusive focus. At the same time he makes images of succulent, mouth-watering materiality, almost hyper-real in their insistent pictorial immediacy. Ideas of control and appetite interplay: we are caught between discipline and desire, our hunger provoked, all too aware that we are viewing a vividly realistic illusion.

The very act of representation points to the fact that the actual is absent. These images preserve and celebrate the object of desire, at the instant when it might be at its most desirable. A certain romantic melancholy accompanies Ventrone's skilful iterations. Well aware that such forms decay and their ripe appeal is transitory, the painter fixes them in an ideal state; they are archetypes of unattainable perfection.

In his capturing of a moment, an interlude of stillness and calm, the artist reveals the tension between the real and unreal and our wish to make tangible that which eludes us.



1. Le Mimose 2016

Oil on mixed media on linen

60 x 110 cm (23.6 x 43.4 in)



2. Urbe 2015–2016
Oil on mixed media on linen
50 x 50 cm (19.7 x 19.7 in)



3. Riposo 2011–2016
Oil on mixed media on linen
40 x 60 cm (15.7 x 23.6 in)



4. Voci 2015
Oil on mixed media on linen
60 x 60 cm (23.6 x 23.6 in)



5. Eterno Presente 2010–2017
Oil on mixed media on linen
50 x 50 cm (19.7 x 19.7 in)



6. Quite 2013–2017
Oil on mixed media on linen
50 x 50 cm (19.7 x 19.7 in)



7. Antichi Sapori 2 2011–2017
Oil on mixed media on linen
30 x 30 cm (11.8 x 11.8 in)



8. Attimi Successivi 2015
Oil on mixed media on linen
60 x 70 cm (23.6 x 27.6 in)



9. Spiritelli 2 2010–2017
Oil on mixed media on linen on board
40 x 40 cm (15.7 x 15.7 in)



10. Solista 2010–2017

Oil on mixed media on linen on board

40 x 40 cm (15.7 x 15.7 in)



11. Percezioni 2013–2016
Oil on mixed media on linen
50 x 60 cm (19.7 x 23.6 in)



12. Dedalo 2015

Oil on mixed media on linen

60 x 70 cm (23.6 x 27.6 in)



13. Amalfi 2011–2017

Oil on mixed media on linen

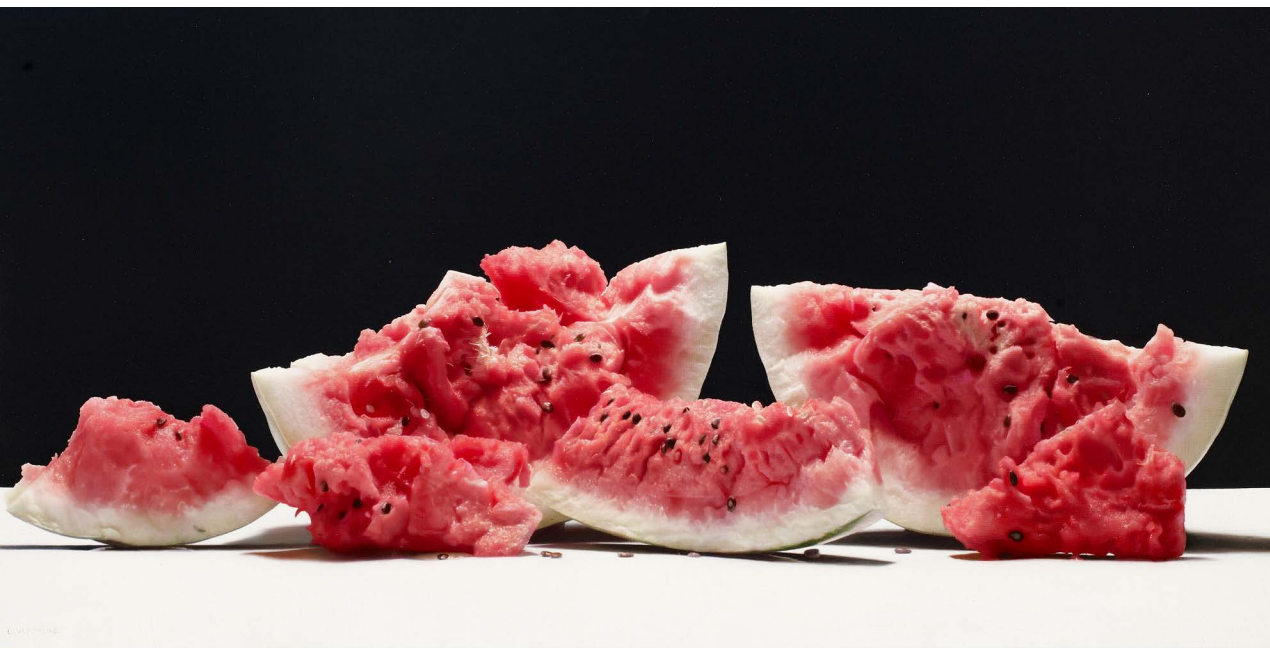
60 x 110 cm (23.6 x 43.4 in)



14. Silenzi 2 2010–2017
Oil on mixed media on linen on board
30 x 30 cm (11.8 x 11.8 in)



15. Regine e Reginelle 2015
Oil on mixed media on linen
60 x 60 cm (23.6 x 23.6 in)



16. In Prima Fila 2014

Oil on mixed media on linen

50 x 100 cm (19.7 x 39.4 in)



17. Coerenza Geometrica 2015–2017
Oil on mixed media on linen
60 x 90 cm (23.6 x 35.4 in)



18. Ombre Impalpabili 2017
Oil on mixed media on linen
90 x 110 cm (35.4 x 43.4 in)



19. Accordi 2015

Oil on mixed media on linen

60 x 60 cm (23.6 x 23.6 in)



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20. 8 Marzo 2016

Oil on mixed media on linen

60 x 60 cm (23.6 x 23.6 in)



21. Viaggatori 2 2011–2017
Oil on mixed media on linen
60 x 80 cm (23.6 x 31.5 in)



22. Storie Piccanti 2010–2017
Oil on mixed media on linen
50 x 70 cm (19.7 x 29.6 in)



23. Antichi Sapori 2011–2017
Oil on mixed media on linen
30 x 30 cm (11.8 x 11.8 in)



24. In Scena 2015–2017
Oil on mixed media on linen
55 x 115 cm (21.7 x 45.2 in)

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2018 Meraviglia ed Estasi, Chiesa di San Francesco, Gualdo Tadino
Consolato Generale d'Italia, Miami
- 2017 Matrix, Oltre la realtà/ Beyond reality, Museo Civico e Pinacoteca "Edilberto Rosa", Amelia
Marval Antique & Contemporary Art, Neuchâtel
Punti di vista, Museo delle Genti d'Abruzzo, Pescara
- 2014 Colore, luce, forma e spazio, Galleria Stefano Forni, Bologna
Albemarle Gallery, London
The Thrill of the Real, Hollis Taggart Galleries, New York
- 2013 Nudes, Albemarle Gallery, London
A Parallel World, Vremena Goda Galleries, Moscow
- 2012 Albemarle Gallery, London
SuiGeneri/s, Partners & Mucciaccia, Singapore
SuiGeneri/s, Casino dei Principi-Musei di Villa Torlonia, Rome
Eternal Realism of Vision, Han Art, Montreal
- 2011 La perfezione dell'immagine, Cartiere Vannucci-Magazzini dell'Arte, Milan
La profondità della superficie, Museo Civico di San Francesco, Montefalco
- 2010 Il velo di Maya, Albemarle Gallery, London
La verità della forma, Palazzo del Broletto, Como
Io cerco, Fondazione per i ragazzi del mondo di Ibrahim Kodra, Melide
The State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg
Beyond the veil, Hollis Taggart Galleries, New York
- 2009 Simposio, Albemarle Gallery, London
Istantanee di Luce, Studio Forni, Milan
L'inverosimile verosimiglianza, Fondazione Bandera per l'Arte, Busto Arsizio
- 2008 L'Eterno presente/The Eternal Present, Bernarducci-Meisel Gallery, New York
L'Eterno presente/The Eternal Present, Galleria Forni, Bologna
L'Eterno Presente, Albemarle Gallery, London
Le verità dipinte, Palazzo Luigi Einaudi, Chivasso
- 2007 Still-humanlife, Studio Forni, Milan
- 2006 Luciano Ventrone and the Eternal Present, Albemarle Gallery, London
Xenia o sia il gioco degli occhi, Studio Forni, Milan
Xenia o sia il gioco degli occhi, Palazzo dei Principi, Correggio
- 2004 L'immortale realtà di Luciano Ventrone, Sala del Caminetto-Hotel Fortino Napoleonico, Ancona
Xenia, Galleria Forni, Bologna
- 2003 Studio Forni, Milan
- 2002 Galleria Forni, Bologna
Studio Forni, Milan
- 2001 Galleria Il Tempietto, Brindisi
- 2000 Galleria Forni, Bologna
Il mistero della evidenza, Studio Forni, Milan
- 2000-1963 Over 40 solo exhibitions worldwide

Selected Public, Corporate and Private Collections

Modern Art Collection of the Italian Senate
Barilla Collection
Umberto Agnelli Collection
Carlo De Benedetti Collection
Silvio Scaglia Collection
Ente Fiera Bologna Collection
Ferrari President Luca Cordero di Montezemolo
Romano Prodi (Former Italian Prime Minister)
Massimo D'Alema (Former Italian Foreign Minister)
Ottaviano Del Turco Collection
Fabbri Editore (Leading Italian book publisher)
Federico Zeri Foundation Collection
Luigi Cremonini Collection
Carlo Edoardo Valli Collection
Fontana Collection
Andrea Mascagni Collection
National Gallery of Art, Washington DC USA
Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahayan Collection
Barclays Bank, UK Corporate Collection



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