

Luciano Ventrone

Malinconia Romantica

13 April – 13 May 2018

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.



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



Accordi | 2015 | Oil on mixed media on linen | 60 x 60 cm (23.6 x 23.6 in)

Pontone

GALLERY

LUCIANO VENTRONE

1942 Born in Rome, Italy

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

2005–1963 Over 50 solo exhibitions worldwide



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



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



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