

The things I say



27th March 2010 > 12th May 2010
Opening Saturday 27th March - 11.30 a.m.

Studio la Città presents the first Solo Show in Europe of the young Indian artist Balaji Ponna. Particularly concerned with painting (though not always: in the gallery he will be presenting an installation), Ponna, who lives in Mumbai, is notable for images which are closely linked to the social-political events of his country. At the same time they have a universal appeal: the strong contradictions within India are shown through metaphors which can, on the one hand, be almost paradoxically grotesque, and, on the other, lightly and cheerfully ironic. For Ponna, India and the world are places where the human presence can only lead to damage as a result of pollution, conflict, fake needs, fallacious beliefs, and illusory myths. The landscape is always "dirtied" by the human presence which, however, is so ingenuous, ignorant, and often quite oblivious that is almost acceptable, and pleasingly self-destructive: in fact, predictable catastrophes never seem sombre but almost pleasurable in their inevitability. And an important accomplice in this tragic cheerfulness is Ponna's way of painting: as minute as an Indo-Persian miniature, but undertaken on large surfaces, the works' bitter and stinging meaning is presented in the same way as great traditional decoration. Only at a second and more attentive look reveals them for what they are: a sharp exposure of the conditions of society, of all societies.

Marco Meneguzzo 2010



At hungry times...nobody asks about it [who cut, who cooked, who served...], 2009
 oil on canvas - 183x236 cm

Recent Shows

- 2010 *The things I say*, curated by Marco Meneguzzo
 Studio la Città, Verona
- 2009 *Black Smoke*, Bose Pacia, Kolkata - in collaboration with
 The Guild, Mumbai
 France Print Biennale
Contemporary Exotism, curated by Marco
 Meneguzzo, with catalogue
- 2008 *The July show*, The Guild gallery, Mumbai
- 2007 *Cross Roads*, Anant Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2006 *Stepping In - Stepping Out*, by Art Konsult &
 Threshold Art Gallery, India Habitat Centre

Top: *Beware of Dog and beware of God* - 2010
 Oil on canvas - 152x213 cm

Special thanks to:  SARTORI