



STUDIO LA CITTÀ

What I did not sell...

50 Years. A Story.

Curated by Marco Meneguzzo

December, 7 - 2019 > February 15 - 2020

Opening: December, 7 - 2019 at 11:30 am



7 December 2019 will be an important date for Studio la Città: **it will be fifty years since the gallery was opened** and its founder, H el ene de Franchis, has decided to celebrate the event with a curious show, with a purposely provocative title.

What I did not sell... is a show **curated by Marco Meneguzzo** and it collects together a heterogeneous selection of works by **Stuart Arends, Pier Paolo Calzolari, Vincenzo Castella, Lucio Fontana, Jacob Hashimoto, Emil Lukas, David Simpson, and Ettore Spalletti**, to mention just a few.

An old motto of the art world says that the riches of a gallery dealer are to be found in what has not been sold, rather than in what has been sold, in the sense that time – always a gentleman – enormously re-evaluates those works that, at the moment of their exhibition in the gallery, have not been understood and have remained in store (or those works the dealer has decided to keep for herself ...). What H el ene has not sold – or did not want to sell – is a new and highly pertinent show that is the summary of fifty years of choices, and the summary of fifty years of self-portraits.

This is how the curator describes the genesis of the show, as a kind of fifty-year-long journey of which the fundamental steps consist of emblematic works by the artists who have contributed to the highly personal “style” of H el ene de Franchis. In the essay that accompanies the show, Meneguzzo has pinpointed, after careful consideration, a common denominator both for the pieces on show and, more generally, for all the art projects proposed by Studio la Citt a over fifty years: sobriety and elegance.

It is as though the artists of the gallery, the most assiduous, always promise something beyond what they actually exhibit, a surplus of meaning that can be discovered when that kind of natural reluctance is overcome by the empathy of the viewer.

By passing in review the gallery’s seasons, this show realises both a self-portrait of a gallery dealer as well as a journey through various trends in Italian and international contemporary art, from the 1950s until today. From the ceramics of Lucio Fontana, it ranges across the monochrome and iridescent abstraction of David Simpson, the important names of Arte Povera with the neon works by Pier Paolo

Calzolari, the sculptures of Ettore Spalletti, up to the most recent works by the Americans Emil Lukas and Jacob Hashimoto.

This is only a small taste of the panorama offered to the eyes of the visitors from 7 December: **the complete list of artists and works on show, as also for the installation that will involve the whole exhibition space, will be reserved until the opening date.** The gallery has not considered *What I did not sell...* as a group show tout court, but rather as a surprise-event with a completely unexpected result.

For this occasion the show will propose a video/documentary, the outcome of a long period of research and selection in the archives of Studio la Città, and realised through a montage of images of the period, from the beginnings of the gallery in the early 1970s to today (curated by Pelicula Snc).

Exhibition period: 7 December 2019 – 15 February 2010.

Venue: Studio la Città, Lungadige Galtarossa 21, 37133 Verona

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

For further information and images, write to:

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