

## La storia non si ripete ma fa rima

History does not repeat itself, but rhymes

Cristian Avram, Linda Carrara, Andrea Fontanari,  
Veronica de Giovanelli, Gabriele Grones,  
Debora Hirsch, Federico Seppi

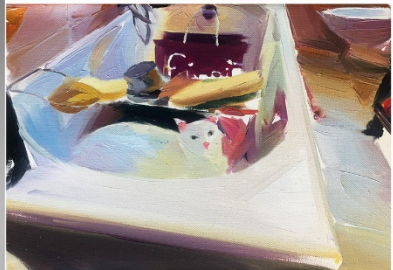
and

Vincenzo Castella, Giulio Paolini

September 23 – November 11, 2023



Cristian Avram - Linda Carrara  
Andrea Fontanari  
Veronica de Giovanelli  
Gabriele Grones  
Debora Hirsch - Federico Seppi



*History does not repeat itself, but it rhymes* is the title of the exhibition curated by H el ene de Franchis (Studio la Citt a, Verona) and Giorgia Lucchi Boccanera (Boccanera Gallery Trento/Milan) that will open Saturday, September 23 at 11 a.m. in the spaces of Lungadige Galtarossa 21 in Verona. This exhibition project was created by two galleries that share the same vision and interest in promoting contemporary art.

"History does not repeat itself but it rhymes," is probably the most well-known and quoted phrase of American writer Mark Twain. This famous quote represents the role of history itself: a constant evolution of transformations and progress, while at the same time, patterns that repeat and schemes that replicate paradigms similar to themselves.

This sometimes happens even when two personal stories intersect. One relives the mechanisms of its past in the other, while the other builds a projection of its possible tomorrow

*"I see in Giorgia what I was doing 40 years ago," says H  l  ne de Franchis. "I have a framed photograph in my storage showing me leaning against a van - that I drove from Verona to Cologne going to the Art Fair - with the Cologne Cathedral in the background. Giorgia does the same. We have the same way of considering art and the same approach. In an interview, I described working in the art world as a way of life: an uncommon life choice that Giorgia and I fully share."*

Giorgia Lucchi, on the other hand, has recognized in H  l  ne the role of a mentor, unintentionally on her part: *"I have always admired H  l  ne for her professionalism, attention to detail, and her great tenacity and energy. I have always celebrated her successes and the great team she has created. I believe that the feeling of deep admiration and esteem for those who achieve recognition in their work creates inner tension and extra strength to believe even more firmly in what you do. Looking at H  l  ne, I project myself into the future, give shape my vision, and face everyday difficulties with that lightness of spirit that makes everything achievable."*

This affinity between the two gallery owners arose naturally after many encounters at various contemporary art venues and constant greetings from Giorgia Lucchi Boccanera, who referred to H  l  ne as "her personal myth." Until one day, at Artissima in Turin, H  l  ne anticipated Giorgia, asking her *not to no longer call her myth*. From that moment, a firm handshake sealed the deep understanding between colleagues who share the same profession in the same way.

The result of this understanding is an exhibition in the spaces of Lungadige Galtarossa 21 in Verona that will present the works of artists Cristian Avram, Linda Carrara, Andrea Fontanari, Veronica de Giovanelli, Gabriele Gronese, Debora Hirsch and Federico Seppi represented by Boccanera Gallery, along with Vincenzo Castella and Giulio Paolini, two artists particularly representative of the history of Studio la Citt  . Vincenzo Castella was chosen by Giorgia Lucchi Boccanera because it refers H  l  ne's great passion for photography as an extraordinary artistic medium. Castella's work printed on 70 gram Japanese mulberry paper offers an almost painterly vision that approaches the paintings of Gabriele Gronese. The choice of Giulio Paolini's work is instead linked to the history of the gallery, to the early years of its activity when choices of great contemporaneity brought H  l  ne closer to the work of particularly innovative artists such as Paolini.

**Cristian Avram** (Born in Alba-Julia Romania, 1994. Lives and works in Cluj Napoca) describes moments founded on the immersive power of emotions. His way of painting is characterized by a very classical approach. Extracting his subjects from the world around him, he uses the representation of reality as a means of investigating the possibilities that colour offers in the creation of his imagery.

**Linda Carrara** (Born in Bergamo, 1984. Lives and works between Milan and Brussels) delves, with a strong philosophical attitude, into the representation of landscape and nature. Through meticulous technicality, the artist dialogues with reality and reworks the subjects proposed in her paintings, ranging from the use of frottage to more dynamic and immersive brushstrokes.

**Andrea Fontanari** (Born in Trento, 1996. Lives and works between Trento and Venice), through dynamic brushstrokes that investigate the physicality of black and white through the vibrancy of color, offers an unprecedented narrative through the representation of private, domestic and family moments. A youthful and lively perspective on everyday life told through the occasionally dreamlike and shrewdly realistic attitude of his paintings, the crystallization of emotions, shared moments, and common objects.

**Veronica de Giovanelli** (Born in Trento, 1989. Lives and works in Brussels), through layered painting, her artistic inquiry investigates the complexity of the landscape and the processes that constitute, modify, or destroy it. She considers the landscape as a layering of matter, memories, and events. Often, she compares it to an ancient parchment scroll or book, a handwritten page that have been written, erased and rewritten again.

**Gabriele Grones** (Born in Belluno, 1983. Lives and works in New York City). His meticulously crafted artworks serve as elements of interconnection between nature and human culture, characterised by direct symbolic and iconographic correlations between the artificial and the natural. The two paintings on display originate from a conceptual dialogue with the poetics of the Masters Umberto Moggioni and Felice Casorati.

**Debora Hirsch** (Born in São Paulo, Brazil, 1967. Lives and works between Milan and São Paulo). She is currently dedicated to the digital project "Plant". The interconnection of traditional painting, drawing, artificial intelligence and animation to generate works of art. Following blockchain protocols that define a space protected from destruction, manipulation and the passage of time, the artist decided to bring almost extinct plants back to life and preserve them within the realm of AI and physical painting.

**Federico Seppi** (Born in Trento, in 1990, where he lives and works) Through his artworks, he redefines the natural universe, by consistently physically reappropriating the original elements. He assigns to each element a symbolic value and a spiritual significance. His works arise from the dialogue between spirituality and science, the relationships between East and West, and the transformation between nature and artifice.

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and  
**Vincenzo Castella, Giulio Paolini**

**Exhibition curated by Giorgia Lucchi Boccanera and H el ene de Franchis**

**Opening:** Saturday, September 23, 2023, 11 a.m.

**Exhibition duration**

September 24 – November 11, 2023

**Location**

Studio la Citt , Lungadige Galtarossa 21, 37133 Verona

**Opening times**

Monday 2 – 6 p.m. from Tuesday to Friday 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. and 2 – 6 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. (booking by Thursday of the same week)

**PRESS OFFICE**

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