



Raffaele Capuana Il rosso è un colore che non conosco

Vernissage: Thursday May 18, 2023. At 6.30 pm

On view: May 19 - September 27, 2023

Maroncelli 12 keeps searching and discovering the "masters" of Italian Outsider Art. Intense and full of wonder was the encounter with the work of Raffaele Capuana, a secluded, mysterious artist, still little known because he feverishly painted his whole life, even if in isolation. The exhibition "Rosso è un colore che non conosco" kicks off on Thursday May 18 presenting about thirty paintings of different sizes. We are honored to dedicate a personal exhibition to this Sicilian artist, Milanese by adoption, thanking the collector and former gallery owner Paolo Pocchini for his collaboration and the Osservatorio Outsider Art, the first magazine which published a beautiful article about him, by art historian Giorgio Seveso (Osservatorio Outsider Art, n. 20, page 56).

Capuana was born in 1947 in Carlentini, in the province of Catania, the youngest of three children. His father Santi paints for passion but his mother Luigia decides to leave Sicily and move to Milan to take her children away from the difficult relationship with her husband. Raffaele suffers greatly from this estrangement from his father to whom he will remain very close for life. Maybe this is where the anguish and that sense of emptiness start from, which with profound vision he manages to translate into suggestive signs on a chromatic palette of mellow colors.

First the divorce, then a series of painful events hit Capuana: the death of his mother, his second son Tiziano and his brother Salvatore who has always supported him. Through art he begins a reflection on death and decay. Just think of Self-Portraits series (2005), repetitive, serial, hallucinated, drawn at speed on the sheets of a notebook. Mirrors of a difficulty in recognizing oneself. Abuse of psychoactive drugs and cigarettes forced him to multiple hospitalizations in a psychiatric hospital between 2005 and 2016. Maybe this is the most interesting period of his long artistic career.

Some fish heads appear. They are presented on pasty backgrounds of beautiful chromatic matter in which one could sink... and it is precisely in these backgrounds that a strong pictorial skill is felt. Then the fish bones: with an almost obsessive seriality, Capuana persists in turning around this image with his extraordinary technique. He dies in Ghiffa (Piemonte) in 2019.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2017 – "Raffaele Capuana. Disegni e guaches", solo exhibition curated by Paolo Pocchini, sala esposizioni Panizza, Ghiffa, Verbania

2010 – "Raffaele Capuana. Dipinti su carta", solo exhibition curated by Paolo Pocchini, Donec Capiam Studio, Milano