

**Press Release**

# **NEL ROVESCIO DEI RAMI**

**Luca Mengoni**

The personal exhibition *Nel rovescio dei rami* by Luca Mengoni will be opening on Saturday the 2nd March 2024 at 6.00 p.m. at SHAREVOLUTION Contemporary art in Genoa and it will be open to the public until 27th April 2024.

In the center of the exhibition's itinerary there is the subject of the tree, accompanied by other similar and recurrent images in the author's iconography: bushes, stairs, flowers and mountains.

The large trees, painted with extraordinary attention to detail, go far beyond the obvious naturalistic depiction and are always a metaphor of a psychological landscape. The usage of colors themselves – such as black wood, blood-orange red, beeswax yellow ochre - only one at a time, are a reflection of an abstract state of the mind.

From his *Ritagli di paesaggio* – literally “Landscape cutouts” that look like snippets of other, larger, complete landscapes, composed of details of wild roses, intricate blackberry bushes or wilted flowers indistinguishable from their shadows, appears a sense of expectancy.

In the series of works presented in the exhibition is manifested the unraveling of time, because they reveal forgotten moments from the more recent and deeper past, which had laid hidden to the conscience and at the same time are revealing to the contingency of the present.

The image of the tree, as a symbol of connection and mediation between the earth and sky, defer to the idea of ascent, culminating with paintings of the sky and clouds, that with their ever-changing form remind us of the infinite greatness of the cosmos, full of secrets and beauties way beyond human understanding. But the mysteries of the universe are somehow mitigated by nature, hence the author invites us to contemplate it in search of its salvific abilities.

Nevertheless, Luca Mengoni is not a romantic admirer of nature, since his work mediates between real and imaginary spaces, creates new and suggestive paths that enable the viewer to experience new visions, always keeping himself deeply rooted in the contemporary environment. The naked branches he creates have a tentacular form, but it isn't oppressive, because they don't try to engulf what's around them but are rather open to reach and connect with it. Therefore, the artist doesn't only invite the viewer to observe the paintings, but rather to actively participate to their existence and interpretation.

Lastly, the reflection that blooms while observing Mengoni's work is the following: nature mostly allow us to free ourselves and stand out from it. The most important aspect we must remember is to live in full and mindful awareness, keeping ourselves completely grounded in the world we inhabit.

The exhibition will be accompanied with the publication “alberi, Fiori, montagne e altre cose” (trees, flowers, mountains, and other things) 2008 – 2024, with writings by Alexandre Chollier and Matteo Terzaghi.