

curated by
Danilo Eccher

5 March 2019 - 25 May 2019

Inauguration

Monday 4 March

at 7 p.m.

From Tuesday 5 March to Saturday 25 May, M77 Gallery is presenting *Veduta*, a new solo exhibition by the artist Velasco Vitali (Bellano, 1960), curated by Danilo Eccher. The exhibition, which occupies both floors of the gallery, is conceived as a single large-scale exhibition project and is a tribute to the city of Milan and to the history which unites places which are dear to the artist.

On the ground floor, the area is entirely occupied by a large picture depicting an alpine landscape, the Lombardy Prealps, with the Grigna and the Resegone peaks in the centre. The work is inspired by the famous drawing by Leonardo da Vinci from the Milan Duomo. This panorama did not only interest him so much as to lead him to study it at length, it was also very familiar. Vitali continued the study of the great Renaissance artist, enlarging and adding colour to this mountain range. The Bellano-born painter considers these peaks to be a special place, a landscape which has been familiar to him since his childhood. It is the intimate bond with water that leads the large painting to be reflected, doubled as though in a vision, in an artificial lake which has been created especially for the event within the gallery; a metaphor for the change in perspective, the lake represents the place where the reflections of the artist are reflected and deepened.

On the upper floor, the artist places the Milan Duomo at the centre of his work, depicting it in four different moments of the day: dawn, midday, afternoon and night, each presented in three different paintings. This section of works is inspired by another important figure from the history of art, Claude Monet (1840-1926), who decided to carry out his own research into lighting on a national monument, Rouen Cathedral. In his series of thirty works, the French artist demonstrated one of the fundamental points of the impressionist movement, or rather how the perception that we have of reality is very different from its objective aspect. Our perception of the world is influenced by light, movement and weather conditions, in such a way that every instant appears different from that which follows. Velasco decided to take this research to extremes from a chromatic point of view, completely eliminating colours and using only black and white.

This exhibition contains themes which are typical to Velasco Vitali's art: the reassuring natural perspectives which he is so fond of, and representations of cities. Here, the spires of the Milan Duomo clearly recall the rocky and fragmented outline of the mountains, uniting the works on the two floors of the exhibition in a single idealistic expression.

The exhibition will be open to the public from 5 March to 25 May 2019 and will be accompanied by a catalogue in which the curator Danilo Eccher converses with the artist.

BIO

Velasco Vitali (Bellano, 1960).

The beginning of his career was marked by his encounter with Giovanni Testori and his participation in the exhibition *Artisti e Scrittori* held at the Rotonda della Besana in Milan. His works were presented at the Rome Quadrennial, the Venice International Art Exhibition in 2011, the 4th edition of the Biennale Gherdëina of sculpture in Ortisei, Val Gardena, in 2014, and in 2015 at the Berlinale, where he won the FIPRESCI award as the producer and protagonist of the documentary *Il Gesto delle Mani*, directed by Francesco Clerici.

2011 saw the publication of the volume *Apriti Cielo* by Skira, which brought together watercolours on the theme of the sacred. These included a number of drawings for the cultural section of the newspaper "Il Corriere della Sera" with which he has been collaborating since 2007.

His exhibitions include, in 2010, *Sbarco* (Piazza Duomo and the Sant'Agostino complex in Pietrasanta, and Piazza Duca D'Aosta and Palazzo Reale in Milan); *Branco* in 2011 and *Aria* in 2012 (both at the LKFF Gallery in Brussels). 2012 also saw *Foresta Rossa* curated by Luca Molinari (Isola Madre and Verbania). His reflections on ghost cities, which were the foundation of this latter installation, continued the following year with the solo exhibition of paintings entitled *Foresta Rossa: 416 ghost cities throughout the world* curated by Luca Molinari and Francesco Clerici (Milan Triennale).

In 2017 Velasco, together with Peter Greenaway, curated and designed an exhibition on his father Giancarlo Vitali entitled *Time Out* (Palazzo Reale, Castello Sforzesco, The Natural History Museum and the Manzoni Museum in Milan).

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VEDUTA

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