

# FORMAE MENTIS

## Inclusive Art Exhibition

**Palazzo dei  
Trecento Hall  
Treviso**

**01.04-23.04.2023**

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The richness of sensory details, also transmitted by temporal distortions, the inversion of cause and effect, create a dimension that here is divided into two physical spaces: the interior and the exterior, which blend without boundary and open to a third entity the possibility of filling the box that contains everything.

The real world will continue to hide an irresolvable mystery, thus giving voice to the ambiguity of the contemporary's sense of existence. The universe of the artists here can be intuited, yet never explained.

The world within and the world without and a subtle shadow that fades the distinction between the two, far from clear-cut and absolutely real, real as it is all that we are and do not show, as well as what we show without having awareness of what it is.

Manifesting, transforming into matter as a need not so much to show who or what one is to others, but more to oneself. Transformation as an act of expression, metamorphosis as an inevitable act of our being.

On the other hand, the metamorphosis, the change, is constantly part of us, of our living and our experience: the world outside

changes, but the world inside also changes, and that thin invisible line that distinguishes them, after all, we discover to be dust that with a breath dissolves. Seasons flow by, people enter, leave, and pass through our lives, feelings

slumber, and other faces instead light a fire within us. Caterpillars become butterflies, and flowers wither. Everything changes, with nothing we can do to alter the natural course of things.

The artists in the exhibition tell us, through their



works, on different planes and each in their own personal expressive language, some possible declinations of metamorphosis. In an exhibition wall, they tell us about the experience of questioning the perception of the other:

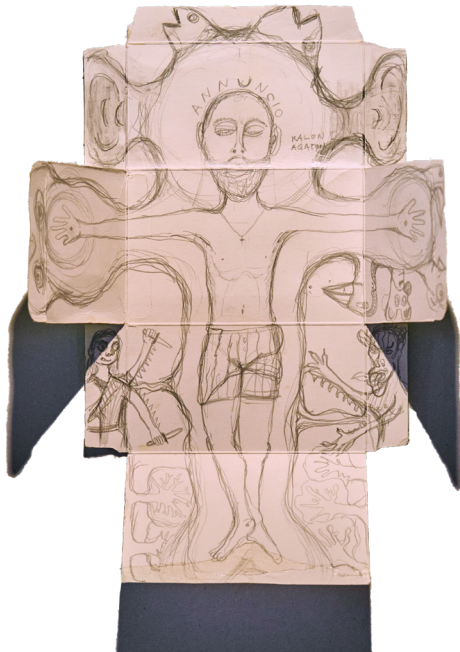
real and imaginary figures occupy a space that stops being personal, mental, of a memory or a dream that is, and is shared with anyone who has the desire to approach, to make it partly their own.

times exotic, magical, and enchanted. The study of anthropomorphic figures, of the relationship with the nonhuman, of the beings in potency, characterizes a parallel dimension to the usual way of viewing the sphere of reality. Juxtapositions of places, cultures, traditions near and far resonate in the exhibition space and in the minds of the viewer.

ty of expression: the works collected here are a direct invitation to reflection on the self, to discover the details of identity, one's own and that of those who go through the flow of days, deconstructing and reconstructing it, constantly, without arrival, in a continuous evolution of one's being and becoming.

Travel is a theme that is also touched upon in another wall, where a journey in search of other geographical and inner worlds is recounted, leaving us free to think about it anywhere and everywhere at the same time. An evocation of suspended and almost surreal atmospheres outline a reality that is used here as the starting point of a transfiguration that passes through imagination and wonders. Symphonies of colors and shapes harmonize the space inside and outside the canvases, creating a fantastic whole that, once again, we cannot place in a defined space or time, inviting us to open wide to our mind the doors of imagination to reach those hidden places inside us.

Although change is part of our nature, it frightens and petrifies, taking us as far from the concept of metamorphosis as we can imagine. The unknown activates fear. "Entering into certain infinities is never obvious," quoting one of the artists in the exhibition. It pulls one away from stability. More often, we close ourselves off, more or less consciously, rejecting everything we perceive to be other than our nature,



The encounter with the other is recounted in very different forms, colors, and techniques, but brought together by a suspended time and space as if to remind us of the intrinsic intimacy of the instant represented, a whole that in itself contains a sense of the extraordinary and the universal. Spontaneity, immediacy, and warmth weave the life stories of people who have never crossed each other's paths, yet they grip that point between stomach and heart in those who observe their expressiveness.

On the next wall, the artworks lead to the discovery of fantastic worlds, at

The last wall, finally, strikes us with directness and sincerity-





aware that the encounter toward this something new involves an effort we are not certain we want to put forth. Apparent certainties comfort, but they do not leave time and space to discover the potential worlds that questions and confrontation with the other and the self generate. We each have our own *forma mentis*, our own way of approaching the world, of looking at colors, of savoring scents, of being with people, and with ourselves, with our own thoughts, emotions, feelings. It is not always obvious to recognize the uniqueness of each person and his or her attitude to life. In a social reality that is increasingly standardized and adheres to models, often performative, we forget the beauty of uniqueness and the value of differences. This exhibition aims to be an appreciation of each person in his or her being oneself, and a tool to better understand *formae mentis* that in some respects deviate from a typicality, voices that for this very reason urgently need to be heard, observed, and understood.

Entering the inner part of this room within the room, recreated in the Hall of the Palazzo dei Trecento in Treviso, one approaches the most remote and recondite places of the minds of the artists and artists on display: a place made of in-

stinct, of little rationality, of the need for expression.

No rules, no paradigms, but pure expressive freedom occupying space, taking its own space. Drawings, sketches, pencils, studies, charcoals, pens, recycled media and deliberately displayed free of frames or extraneous elements occupy the main space in all their power.

It is our intention to provide no technical, stylistic, compositional, formal or informal details, no interpretative keys.

Once, during a visit to an atelier, we were asked if for all things in the world there was a why. Dry, direct, decontextualized question. The answer was not immediate, indirectly we were asked whether something, in order to exist, to be considered worthy of attention, needed a reason, a logical explanation. We answered no, that not everything always has a why, and that sometimes we have to find ways to quench that thirst for rationality to justify everything that happens. And then, come to think of it, the most beautiful, intense and worthwhile things are often those that

do not have a why.

The artists thus represent the mutability of the self, the changing over time. Learning to recognize and appreciate diversity, letting the encounter take the place of mistrust, will ensure that those who think differently from us, those who have a different *forma mentis* from ours, will become a valuable ally in fully experiencing the constant surprise that is life. Absolute Art.

