

# GALLERIA POGGIALI

## Abel Herrero

### *Eclissi di mare*

*Text by Walter Guadagnini*

**Opening Saturday 30.03.2024, 5.30 pm to 9.00 pm**

30.03 – 06.06.2024

### Pietrasanta

*Ex Fonderia d'arte Luigi Tommasi - Via G. Marconi 48*

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Via G. Garibaldi, 8

Following the recent exhibition *Viaggio di luce* (Journey of Light) at the Galleria delle Carrozze in Palazzo Medici Riccardi in Florence, where the works of Claudio Parmiggiani were juxtaposed with those of Abel Herrero, the Galleria Poggiali of Pietrasanta is proposing a focus on the Cuban artist with the exhibition *Eclissi di mare* (Eclipses of the Sea).

This is the first project specifically conceived and produced by Herrero with the gallery.

For this event, the artist will display in the historic premises of the former historic art foundry – Ex Fonderia d'arte Luigi Tommasi – presenting a pictorial installation made up of two works in dialogue with each other, one of monumental dimensions, whereas the project room in Via Garibaldi is given over to smaller works on canvas.

The implicit tragic quality associated with the natural elements revokes echoes of a distant past alluding to the spirit of Romanticism, whereas the reflection speaks to us of a present that is anything but romantic. Through a play of thematic and chromatic references, Herrero presents his personal reflection on the classical elements of landscape painting, taking up recurrent arguments of its iconography. In this specific case, the artist leads us to reflect on a shipwreck, a tragic scenario in which a gash of light opens within a huge vortex of black sea, a possibility of salvation entrusted to green, to hope, that arrives here from a celestial phenomenon: a green eclipse. Thus, it is a cosmic, sensorial, luminous phenomenon that opens a possible colourway towards salvation.

As the artist himself puts it, 'A black sea, a shipwreck that – as in a great tragic and pathetic symphony – contains a green interval, of a saturated and dazzling green, the reflection of a remote cosmic luminescence. A shipwreck by greenlight.'

Herrero attributes to the colour element an importance that goes beyond mere representation. This is why in his painting the artist reflects on the concept of saturation, a condition that he believes permeates our contemporary world. In his pictorial practice he employs pure colour, generally choosing the colours used in printing: magenta, cyan, green, yellow and black. This sets off a painting that is powerful and

luminous, in which the very subject becomes pure colour and the distinction between chromatic and thematic quality is erased: the subject becomes colour and the colour becomes subject.

Abel Herrero (La Habana, 1971), has lived and worked in Italy since 1994. His work matured through comparison with important figures of the Italian avantgarde. During his years in Italy, he has divided his time between Milan, Parma, Venice and the Sienese part of Tuscany, studying the history of European art and iconography. His artistic production spans painting, sculpture, installations and photography. Herrero's pictorial research moves in a borderland between figurative and non-figurative, where the chromatic element is raised to a conceptual content of the work; this is achieved by removal of the pictorial matter through swift, gestural actions. The result is a powerful, essential painting devoid of virtuoso rhetoric, in which even the time of execution plays a decisive role in the constructional rationale of the work. In recent years Herrero has devoted particular attention to the concept of Observatory, landscape and the relation between man and the natural context; this research has given rise to the works called ' saturations '.

His works are included in important collections in Italy and the rest of the world. Among his exhibitions we would mention: *Viaggio di luce. Claudio Parmiggiani, Abel Herrero* (Palazzo Medici Riccardi, Florence 2023-2024), *Cromocracy* (Spazio Castello Gallery, Venice Biennale 2022), *Éter*, in the framework of Matera European Capital of Culture (Ipogei Motta, Matera 2019), *Cromostasi*, (CAOS Centro Arti di Terni, 2018), *M'è Verde il naufragare in questo mare* (tribute to Leopardi, Salone delle Pietre, Todi 2017-2018), *Removed* (Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba, La Habana 2017), *Roma. Elettri città* (tribute to Walter de Maria, Rome 2014), *Invasi* (Chiostri di San Pietro, Reggio Emilia 2013), *Osservatorio* (Centro de Desarrollo de las Artes Visuales, La Habana 2010), *Newrobi* (French Cultural Institute, Nairobi).

## **Galleria Poggiali**

Via Garibaldi, 8  
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**Pietrasanta**

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