

TOM PORTA | TABI – THE JOURNEY (Second part)

Opening Reception: **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 H 11 am**
Special Opening: Sunday, October 1: h 3 – 6 pm
Dates: September 30 – October 28, 2023
Location: **PUNTO SULL'ARTE | Viale Sant'Antonio 59/61 21100, Varese (Casbeno)**
0332 320990 | info@puntosullarte.it
www.puntosullarte.com
Visiting hours: Tuesday – Saturday: h 9.30 am – 5 pm
Catalogue: critical text by Alessia Baranzini

The solo show by **TOM PORTA "TABI - THE JOURNEY"** continues and is brought to conclusion at **PUNTO SULL'ARTE** Gallery. After the first part, which took place last May at the second Gallery in the Historical Centre of Varese, now **TABI - THE JOURNEY** sees its end. **The Opening reception will be held on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 at 11 am at the main Gallery, in Viale Sant'Antonio 59/61 in Varese (Casbeno).**

TABI is not only an exhibition, it is a departure and return in continuum. From the choice of the subject, to the first sketches, to the preparation of canvas and materials, up until the final varnishing which entrusts a precious past moment to the present, TABI is the entirety of works, and every work is TABI, a journey. Every journey, however, is also another type of suffering: it manifests itself as a lack and feeds on both wonder and pain.

Japan, with the originality of its culture and of its social structures, as well as the strength of its traditions, has the capacity to frequently leave us amazed. Technology and digital screens make it an easily accessible destination every day. Japan is already here, just a click away, but barely a few millimetres deep. How then could we ever truly understand a utopia which today is expressed so impalpably? In a time like that in which we live, where every form of transcendence is easily lost, fear and worries of loss have no geographical boundaries or established goals and TABI's poetic journey offers something that goes beyond everyone's lives, transporting us to a higher place than the real world. TOM PORTA possesses a strange and surprising power through which he can lead us from a highly personal point to shared and universal emotions.

TABI is a journey towards a truly beloved Japan, never really let go of, a perhaps unresolved journey, made up of images and profound suggestions which, involving the imagination of an entire generation as well as the artist's lived experience, have the strength to give the viewer a sense of belonging. TABI is an irrevocable drive and a tangible desire, it is the luggage of an artist, TOM PORTA, prisoner soul, who holds so many things close and who, having left for a distant land, perhaps never really returned from it.

TOM PORTA will be present at the Opening reception on Saturday, September 30 at 11 am at the main Gallery in Viale Sant'Antonio 59/61 Varese (Casbeno). We also inform you that the Gallery will remain open SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER from 3 to 6 pm.

The exhibition will be open until Saturday, **October 28, 2023.**

A selection of previously unexhibited works of different sizes will be on display. A BILINGUAL CATALOGUE, with critical text, reproduction of the exhibited works and a STUDIO VISIT will be created by PUNTO SULL'ARTE.

TOM PORTA was born in Milan in 1970 and, since his childhood, he has shown a strong attitude towards drawing and art in general. He graduated as Art Master and began a successful career in illustration and photography. He has lived in Italy, Germany, France, Japan and the United States and, since the very beginning of his career, he has chosen to merge his life experiences into his own paintings. Since 2003 he has chosen to abandon illustration and photography to devote himself only to painting, quickly gaining a prominent position in the Italian art scene. Besides being mentioned among the top 100 Italian artists (2007),

Per ricevere informazioni e immagini rivolgersi a: info@puntosullarte.it

PUNTO SULL'ARTE di SOFIA MACCHI
VIALE SANT'ANTONIO 59/61 | 21100 VARESE (VA) ITALY
+39 0332 320990 | +39 366 26 40 256 | INFO@PUNTOSULLARTE.IT
P.I. 03186310128 | C.F. MCCSFO68C49Z132A

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Porta's artworks are published in important publications such as "500 anni di pittura italiana" (500 years of Italian painting) and in Sotheby's and Christie's catalogues. His work focuses on the history of the 20th century, using past as a mirror for present. The artist is also fascinated by the passing of time that he tells through objects and places chosen in order to invite the viewer to embark on his personal journey, within present and future memories. He has been described as a photojournalist of painting because of the photographic cuts he gives to canvases, his latest works appear as snapshots that pay homage to the imagery associated with Japan. The quick brushstrokes combined with the precision typical of Oriental masters represent the essence of Porta's artistic language, a language where tradition and international trends melt together. He has taken part in many solo and group exhibitions, including: "W.A.R. – We are Restless, the unheard soldier scream" at Palazzo Ducale in Genoa (2011), "Inferno" at the Famedio of Monumental Cemetery of Milan for the 100th anniversary of World War I (2014), "Icarus" at Terminal 1 at Milan Malpensa Airport (2018), "Inferno" at Pirelli Skyscraper in Milan (2018) and "Gaijin – Lo Straniero" at PUNTO SULL'ARTE Gallery in Varese (2022). He also exhibited at the Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Turin during La Biennale in 2011. He lives and works in Milan.

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