

JERNEJ FORBICI

AURI SACRA FAMES

Quid non mortalia pectora cogis, auri sacra fames

Opening reception: **THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024 H 5 pm – 7 pm**
Dates: Friday, January 26, 2024 – Sunday, January 28, 2024
Locations: **PUNTO SULL'ARTE** | Viale Sant'Antonio 59/61, Varese
0332 320990 | info@puntosullarte.it
www.puntosullarte.com
Visiting hours: Friday and Saturday: h 9.30 am – 5 pm | Sunday, January 28 h 11 am - 1 pm / 3 pm - 5 pm
Art curator: Critical text by Marika Vicari

Jernej Forbici, well-known Slovenian artist and creative director of ART STAYS, returns to PUNTO SULL'ARTE for **AURI SACRA FAMES**, a three-day event, where he will exhibit a new cycle of paintings based on the theme of climate crisis, where the use of gold leaf, which is new in his artistic language, emerges. The artist will be present for the entire duration of the event, which is a unique opportunity to deepen this new development of his work with him. The **OPENING RECEPTION** will be held on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 25 from 5 pm to 7 pm** at the main **Gallery in Viale Sant'Antonio 59/61 Varese (Casbeno)**.

Auri Sacra Fames, abbreviated deprecativ expression of "*Quid non mortalia pectora cogis, auri sacra fames*", expresses and interprets that cursed hunger for gold that seduces and grips modern man to the point of total loss of self-control of his own future and the environment. An important title chosen by the Slovenian artist **Jernej Forbici**, used once before for an installation site-specific to the exhibition *Welcome to the final show*, from 2018 created for **PUNTO SULL'ARTE**, and here re-proposed for this new exhibition in Varese.

After a brief pause and having passed these last months in the studio, following the latest international events, including the negotiations and a reflection on the agreement recently reached in Dubai for a transition from fossil fuels, **the artist presents the planet's health in his traditional and personal pictorial language, a dialogue between colours and forms and improbable and metaphorical new materials: gold and petrol** (one of the three fossil fuels). On the occasion of the international commitment to Cop28, an unavoidable economic interest emerged – *auri sacra fames* - with a plan different from the one initially expected, made up, according to some of the countries involved, of improper trade agreements because they represented a serious violation of the commitment made towards climate change and the objective of zero emissions.

The theme of ecology is an important one which Jernej Forbici has followed for a long time, and which revolves around the study of the landscape, of human action and the tragic consequences which he witnesses with anxiety and discernment. Making himself the director of the theatre of human cruelty, in the new works presented here he expresses inexhaustible and indelible pictorial outlines and installation sequences according to a dual and personal visual thermometer between the great changes and apocalyptic scenarios towards which our planet is turning, and alienating, disturbing and yet fascinating situations. **In his paintings we come across a dichotomous reading of reality where the beauty of the contaminated landscape corresponds to silence and alarm.** Not everything is what it seems. **In front of his paintings, the viewer seeks**, in the interpretation provided by the artist, **a relationship with nature**, the same relationship on which the beauty of art and humanity have been nourished for centuries.

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

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The Artist will be present for the entire duration of the event, from Thursday, January 25 to Sunday, January 28, 2024.

JERNEJ FORBICI was born in Maribor (Slovenia) in 1980. He graduated with honours in Painting (chair Prof. Carlo Di Raco) at the Academy of Fine Arts of Venice, then specialising in Visual and Performing Arts. He devotes his painting to landscapes and big formats, thus narrating the story of his hometown, Kidričevo, a small town surrounded by forest who have been damaged by aluminium factories. The core theme of his artistic research is the one, always current and controversial, of pollution and the central role that man plays in it. Since 1999 his works were chosen for many solo and group exhibitions in Europe, USA, Canada, Argentina and China. He was invited to Biennials: Hicetnunc, Pordenone (2003), IBCA International Art Biennial in Prague (2005), 51° and 53° Biennial of Venice (2007 and 2011). In 2009 the Academy of Fine Arts of Venice dedicated him a retrospective of his works at the Magazzini del Sale and in 2012 he won a scholarship from the Slovenian Ministry of Culture and was invited in London, where he studied the English masters. Since 2005 he has been Artistic Director of ART STAYS, the International Festival of Contemporary Art held in Ptuj, Slovenia. His career has been marked by many solo exhibitions in Italy and abroad, including: Long Gone, a solo show that in 2019 marked his debut in New York, HA-HA, the artist's latest solo show at the PUNTO SULL'ARTE Gallery in Varese, in 2022 the solo shows Let the beauty Prevail in The Netherlands and Nature speaks and we remain silent in Slovenia and in 2023 Wasteland, solo exhibition held in Slovenia. His paintings are always present at modern and contemporary art fairs. With his work Jernej Forbici has gained the interest of the contemporary art market and his paintings are exhibited in important shows, art fairs, private and public collections all over the world. He lives and works between Kidričevo, Ptuj (SI) and Vicenza (IT).

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