

MATTEO MASSAGRANDE | SENZA BUSSARE

Opening Reception: **Saturday, March 23, 2024, H 11am - 1pm**
(the Gallery will then remain regularly open from 2 to 5 pm)
Dates: March 23 – April 27, 2024
Location: **PUNTO SULL'ARTE | Viale Sant'Antonio 59/61 21100, Varese (Casbeno)**
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www.puntosullarte.com
Visiting hours: Tuesday – Saturday: h 9.30 am – 5 pm
Catalogue: Critical text by Mario Chiodetti

After exhibiting alongside the works of Van Gogh and in the prestigious Fralin Museum of Art in the United States, **MATTEO MASSAGRANDE** returns to **PUNTO SULL'ARTE** Gallery in Varese. The artist, for his new solo exhibition entitled "**SENZA BUSSARE**", will present **18 new works of different size**. The **Opening Reception** will be held on **SATURDAY, March 23** from 11am to 1pm at the main Gallery in **Viale Sant'Antonio, 59/61, Varese (Casbeno)**.

PUNTO SULL'ARTE is honored to host this exhibition, as the **artist has not held solo exhibitions in private spaces in Italy since 2017 as he has been engaged in many prestigious museum exhibitions both in Italy and abroad**. These include "*Canto dolente d'amore (last day of Van Gogh)*" at the Basilica Palladiana in Vicenza, "*Around Van Gogh*" at the Musei Civici Centro San Gaetano in Padua in 2021, as well as constant participation in the most important art fairs from ArteFiera Bologna to ArtMiami.

The title of the exhibition is inspired by a verse by the Hungarian poet Jòzsef Attila, «**You can enter without knocking once I have fallen in love with you**», indicating how one enters the rooms painted by Massagrande in absolute freedom, without constraint, with the complete ability to marvel at a detail, a colour, an object. Alongside the most beloved objects, **the interiors touched by the sun's first rays, the verandas like eyes over the blue of the sea, a body of works tells of Greece**, its lights and smells, the patches of green around the houses, the vine in front of the entrance. **An almost magical landscape, reproduced superbly**, thanks to long and refined colouristic research, which with time has become almost a philosophical challenge.

Among the greatest exponents of new Italian figurative painting, Matteo Massagrande, who lives and works between Padua and the Hungarian city of Hajòs, and is also an engraver and restorer, represents in his paintings abandoned rooms in which the main protagonist is the light, which dances illuminating antique arabesque floors, creates fascinating shadows and invites the viewer to remember that time is a deception. **His language wonderfully synthesizes the lessons of the great Flemish and Venetian masters** and those of the most modern figurative research, always with one eye on his "idols" Pieter de Hooch and Van Eyck, and Balthus and Chagall, from which he borrowed the secrets of light.

For Massagrande that which gives life to a painting is a particular state of mind, almost a shiver, not the emotion of the moment. «I have never wanted to "stop the moment", as in nineteenth-century Parisian painting, which focused on the moment and represented immobility, instead I would like movement to become eternal. Mine are emphasized moments, in the paintings I weave praise of everyday life, of normality"», we read in the show's critical text.

«Every day we eat bread, and every day it seems new again, so crunchy and fragrant, we never get used to it, yet we always taste it: this is what I want for my paintings, where everyday life is neither ironic or monotonous, and there is the beauty of the known. As a child I observed the closed rooms, you could say I spied on them: not anymore, they must lead to something else, otherwise the painting becomes a still life of chairs and furniture».

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

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Culture is when one notices the simple things, Massagrande loves to say, and the simple complication of his canvases invites us to understand that at the end, **what lives in those empty and luminous rooms, where one can enter without knocking, is none other than our souls.**

The artist will be present at the Opening reception that will be held on **SATURDAY, MARCH 23** from 11am to 1pm at the main Gallery in **Viale Sant'Antonio 59/61, Varese**. The Gallery will then remain regularly open from 2 pm to 5 pm.

A **BILINGUAL CATALOGUE** with the reproduction of the exhibited works and the critical text will be produced by **PUNTO SULL'ARTE**.

The exhibition will be open until Saturday, **April 27, 2024**.

MATTEO MASSAGRANDE He was born in 1959 in Padua. He is one of the greatest representatives of the new Italian figuration. He is a painter, engraver and a great connoisseur of the history of ancient and contemporary art. He started exhibiting in 1973 taking part in group and solo exhibitions and contests all around Italy and obtaining many rewards since the very beginning. He exhibited in more than one hundred solo shows in Italy and abroad. Some of his etchings have become part of the Gabinetto delle Stampe degli Uffizi in Florence. His works are exhibited in many important museums, churches, private and public collections. He works with prestigious Italian and international galleries. Among the major critics who have written about his work there are: Pèter Fertöszögi, Marco Goldin, Roderick Conway Morris, Ermanno Olmi, Enzo Siciliano, Edward Lucie-Smith e Mario Rigoni Stern. Solo exhibitions include: Di Volta in Volta at PUNTO SULL'ARTE Gallery in 2017, Canto dolente d'amore (The last day of Van Gogh) at Basilica Palladiana in Vicenza for the important Van Gogh exhibition Tra il grano e il cielo (2017), the exhibition In my room: artists paint the interior 1950-NOW, at The Fralin Museum of Art, Università della Virginia, Charlottesville in the United States (2018) and Attorno a Van Gogh at Centre of San Gaetano in Padua (2021). In 2023 his works were exhibited in the highly awaited group show <20 15x15 20x20 of the PUNTO SULL'ARTE Gallery. His works are a constantly presence in the most important Art fairs, from ArteFiera Bologna in Italy to ArtMiami in the United States. He lives and works between Padua and Hajòs (Hungary).

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