

VALERIA VACCARO | FUOCO CAMMINA CON ME

Opening Reception: **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 2024, H 11am – 1pm**
(The Gallery will then remain regularly open from 2 pm to 5 pm)
Dates: November 30 – December 21, 2024
Locations: **PUNTO SULL'ARTE** | Viale Sant'Antonio 59/61, 21100 Varese (Casbeno)
0332 320990 | info@puntosullarte.it
www.puntosullarte.com
Visiting Hours: Tuesday – Saturday: h 9.30am-5pm
Critical text: Ivan Quaroni

VALERIA VACCARO, a refined sculptor from Turin known for works that challenge human perception, is the protagonist of the highly awaited exhibition in November at PUNTO SULL'ARTE. The **OPENING RECEPTION of FUOCO CAMMINA CON ME** will be held on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2024, from 11 am to 1 pm** at the main Gallery at Viale Sant'Antonio 59/61, Varese (Casbeno). **The artist will be present.**

Valeria Vaccaro has developed a distinctive and recognizable sculptural language, through which she has managed to combine the enduring monumentality of **marble**, her preferred material, with themes such as fragility, metamorphosis, and the transience of all things. **The exhibition will feature works from various series, including *Marmiferi*, *Aver Cuore*, *Urban Platform*, *Handle With Care*, *Tree of Life*, and *Non Brucio*, as well as the new and previously unexhibited series titled *Controsenso*, which opens Valeria Vaccaro's artistic investigation to new expressive possibilities.**

All her works share a fascination with fire. In fact, the fiery symbolism alluded to in the title of the exhibition, borrowed from a famous feature film by David Lynch, permeates her recent production, taking on different meanings each time and organizing itself around pairs of antithetical concepts—such as destruction and rebirth, permanence and impermanence, solidity and fragility—that allow us to reflect on the (necessarily) contradictory nature of existence.

In the series *Marmiferi*, Vaccaro carves oversized matches that highlight the contrast between the solidity of Carrara marble and the ephemeral function of the object. In the *Urban Platform* and *Handle With Care* cycles, she monumentalizes pallets and packing crates, removing these tools intended for industrial logistics from their natural oblivion while simultaneously bringing the vexata quaestio of the role of mundane objects in contemporary art out of the speculative domain of Duchamp's epigones.

One of the greatest qualities of Valeria Vaccaro's work is, in fact, her technical expertise, a category often underestimated in contemporary art, which allows her to combine the great legacy of classical sculpture with the conceptual urgencies of the present.

In contrast, the *Aver Cuore* and *Non Brucio* series are more lyrical, where the skillful effects of burning and combustion envelop blocks of typographic characters arranged to form idiomatic phrases and statements that resonate like elegiac fragments of Visual Poetry.

Finally, while the *Tree of Life* series explores the contrast between the opposing polarities of fullness and emptiness, evoking the idea of fire as both a creative and destructive natural force, **the new series titled *Controsenso* opens up a new territory of formal investigation that temporarily abandons object representation to focus on the expressive potentials of the material itself.** The new sculptures are simple, curvilinear slabs of marble on which the artist reiterates, with her usual verisimilitude, the charred effect of wood. They are forms that, when paired, create new balances held together by joints placed at the point of tangency of two diverging

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VIALE SANT'ANTONIO 59/61
21100 VARESE | ITALY | + 39 0332 320990

PUNTO SULL'ARTE II

VIA SAN MARTINO DELLA BATTAGLIA 6
21100 VARESE | ITALY | + 39 0332 1690569

PUNTO POP

VIA SAN MARTINO DELLA BATTAGLIA 3
21100 VARESE | ITALY | + 39 0332 1950342

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curves. Alternatively, they are single concave surfaces, slabs that draw imaginative parabolas, yet are rigorously marked by fire.

A **BILINGUAL CATALOGUE** produced by PUNTO SULL'ARTE, featuring reproductions of the exhibited works in their setting and the text by curator Ivan Quaroni, will accompany the exhibition. The artist will be present in the Gallery for the Opening reception on Saturday, November 30. The exhibition will be open until Saturday, **December 21, 2024**.

VALERIA VACCARO was born in Turin in 1988. After attending the Artistic High School, she studied sculpture at the Albertina Academy of Fine Arts in Turin. Since 2005, she has regularly exhibited in solo and group shows in Italy, France, Germany, England, and Montenegro, and has participated in contemporary art fairs. Between 2013 and 2015, she participated in the European itinerant biennial JCE Jeune Création Européenne. In 2015, she exhibited at Exhibit in Turin and at the Museum of Contemporary Art of the Castle of Rivara. In 2017, on the occasion of the CBM Art Prize, she received a special mention from the city of Turin. In the same year, she was among the winners of the 2017 ArTeam Cup. In 2021, she was selected to exhibit some of her sculptures as part of the Bocconi Art Gallery at BAG in Milan. In 2022, she won the Second Prize of the VAF Foundation IX Edition, recognized by the prestigious German Foundation with the aim of promoting innovative positions in contemporary Italian art and communicating them in Germany. On this occasion, the renowned Foundation has acquired two large sculptures by the artist for its valuable permanent collection. At PUNTO SULL'ARTE, she was the protagonist of the solo exhibition "Carta, Forbice, Sasso" (2019), as well as the group shows "Lollipop" (2019) and "Fun 4 Kids" (2022), in addition to being a highly appreciated presence in the gallery's historic exhibitions <20 15x15/20x20 (2019, 2020, 2021, 2024). She lives and works in Turin.

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