

GALLERIA
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AGOSTINO FERRARI
New languages

On Friday, November 22, 2024, at 6.30 pm, Galleria Antonio Battaglia is pleased to present a solo exhibition dedicated to Milanese artist Agostino Ferrari, titled *New languages*.

The exhibition features a selection of recent works and ceramics, continuing the artist's exploration of the *Sign* between Interior / Exterior, now objectified through the new *ProSegno*.

“The works by Agostino Ferrari showcased in this exhibition belong to a cycle focused on the relationships between the sign as a factual entity existing in the world and the sign as a symbol, a means of communication, or a decorative element. The theme, in fact, has resurfaced over more than half a century in the work of the Milanese artist (his first, didactic *Theatres of the Sign* date back to 1967), but perhaps never as explicitly and, at the same time, as aesthetically and compositionally balanced as in recent years.

On colorless or monochromatic backgrounds, the artist, like a dowser guided by instinct, his wand, graphic trace, and poetic intuition, outlines signs that delve beneath the surface or detach from it, acquiring a physical, tangible presence. Not coincidentally, Ferrari refers to them as *pro-signs*, signs that are ‘pro’, meaning forward, before, beyond. Without interrupting a flow reminiscent of the hand's movement through time, the sign thus becomes both narrative and object, a real element and writing, a symbolic mediation that, in Ferrari's case, approaches meaning without ever fully embracing it.

At the same time, the origin or destination of the sign sinks into the canvas or board's body, as if reaching an ancient elsewhere that encompasses not only the ever-living lesson of Lucio Fontana but also the origin, the earth, that internal and unknown world from which we all come. With these latest works, the Milanese artist reaffirms his long-standing dedication to a creative journey that began with the Milanese avant-gardes of the early Sixties yet continues to retain its vitality today.”

Martina Corgnati

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GALLERIA ANTONIO BATTAGLIA

Agostino Ferrari (Milan, 1938).

Drawn to the art world from an early age, at twenty-one, he decided to dedicate himself entirely to it. In 1961, with works still rooted in a naturalistic approach, he held his first solo exhibition at Galleria Pater (Milan). In 1962, together with artists Vermi, Verga, Sordini, and La Pietra, he founded the *Gruppo del Cenobio*. Although short-lived, this experience was foundational for Ferrari: it marked the beginning of his exploration of the *Sign*, which would define his entire oeuvre. Over the years, the *Sign* has been interpreted and investigated in multiple ways: from an initial script-like stroke (*Racconti*), it became more plastic, then physical, interacting with the surface of the canvas and breaking free of it (*Teatro del Segno*). It later transformed into form, interacting with color (*Segno Forma Colore*) and the psyche (*Alfabeto* and *Autoritratto*), ultimately shedding its superstructures to express itself fully (*Eventi*, *Scritture Lineari*, *Maternità*, *Oltre la Soglia*, *Interno / Esterno*, and *Pro-Segni*). Since the Seventies, there have been numerous exhibitions at national and international level.

Agostino Ferrari lives and works in Milan.

(curated by Agostino Ferrari Archive)

November 23 - December 23, 2024

Tuesday / Friday 4 - 7.30 pm

Saturday and Sunday 11 am - 1.30 pm / 4 - 7.30 pm and by appointment

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