

## ILARIA DEL MONTE

*"Ilaria Del Monte's images are as a vividly plastic tale of wonder and amazement, through the creation of a universe of impressive atmospheric coherence, in which the ordinary and the fantastic blend seamlessly". Ivan Quaroni*

**Ilaria Del Monte's** pictorial work can be inserted at a critical level within a research that starts from the experiences of early twentieth century painting, such as magic Realism, as well as from the influences of the New Objectivity, Metaphysic and Surrealism. The process of construction of Ilaria Del Monte's universe can, in fact, be placed side by side with that of surrealist painters such as Magritte and Paul Delvaux, as well as certain atmospheres by Donghi and De Chirico, intent on representing the mystery of human existence through enigmatic and alienating scenes, immersed in a dreamlike and suspended atmosphere, often intimate and homely. They are scenes where it is almost never possible to understand the hidden meaning, nor the meaning of the characters' gestures. At the centre of her visions, in the suffused balance of light and shadow, stands the female figure, a modern version of the ancient heroines of nineteenth century literature, which seems intent on celebrating mysterious magical rituals and obscure propitiatory rites. In a space shaken by surreal intuitions, Ilaria Del Monte paints suspended women, brides of the nature, creatures that turn their look beyond the limit of a single dimension. The theatre of these apparitions is always the home: the settings of the paintings are often domestic interiors, with outmoded wallpaper, peeling walls, draperies that invade the space, paintings that seem to come to life, furniture that becomes clothes, plants that mysteriously enter from the windows and, often, wild animals that interact with the same protagonists of the paintings. "My paintings", explains the painter, "are daydreams".

**Ilaria Del Monte** was born in Taranto in 1985, she lives and works in Milan. She has participated in numerous exhibitions in Italy and abroad, winning numerous painting awards: in 2010 she won the Patrizia Berlettani Next Generation prize at the San Lorenzo Gallery in Milan and in 2011 she was a finalist at the V Arte Laguna Prize at the Venice Arsenal. In the same year she inaugurated her solo exhibitions Vento dal Nulla in Venice and Window's Tales at the Roberta Lietti Gallery in Como. In 2012 In the VBM20.10 Gallery in Berlin she has her solo exhibition Boarding Pass. In 2013 she was present at Arte Fiera di Bologna with the Roberta Lietti Gallery, at Affordable Art Fair in Brussels, Milan, Hong Kong and Seoul with the Studio Akka Gallery and at Art Moscow. In 2013 her personal exhibition When Teresa gets angry with God was held in Milan. In 2014 the Antonio Colombo gallery inaugurates her solo exhibition Out of this World.