

GIANLUCA DI PASQUALE

Gianluca Di Pasquale is best known for his landscape paintings, "almost only featuring figures, painted with precise brush strokes inside a large white space." The paintings presented for Galleria Vik Milano are part of a series of works openly inspired by the works of Doganiere Rousseau, the famous "naive" painter loved by Picasso and the protagonists of the artistic avant-gardes of the early 20th century. Di Pasquale describes a hypertrophic nature, suspended and silent, which recalls the fairy tale atmospheres of the customs officer Rousseau, where wild animals and humans live together in peace. His is an idea of strongly stylized jungle, in which animals, nature, flowers, different botanical species and rare human presences are drawn with great detailed precision and a richness of tones and colours, so as to create a dreamy, enchanting, strongly decorative atmosphere, with elements of great compositional precision, in which abstraction and figuration merge into a single large almost musical scenario. The artist invites us to follow him, while independently supporting ourselves, and to encourage us to stop and think about ourselves.

"I have watched Rousseau more carefully in recent years," the artist said, "at a time when I was interested in archetypes. He best represents them all with a purity that I find only in children. When he paints a lion he represents a lion that is not a lion, but at the same time the archetype of the lion".

The jungle by Di Pasquale, replicated on the walls of the bathroom in an immersive wallpaper that replicates the design transforms a daily space into a magical and dreamlike place, where man symbolically immersed in nature, regains contact with the solitary and intimate part of himself. That of Di Pasquale becomes at the same time a stylistic, compositional and colouristic investigation, but also research, both aesthetic and philosophical, into an invisible world and the hidden harmony behind the phenomenal appearance of the real world.

Gianluca Di Pasquale was born in Rome in 1971. He lived for many years in Milan, today he lives between Milan and a small city in central Italy. He began his exhibition activity in 1999 with the In-out exhibition at the Tatra Gallery in Bratislava. Later he participated in numerous group shows in Italy and Europe and in museums and private galleries. These include: Galleria S. Fedele, Milan (1999); Gallery of Modern Art, Rome (2000); Galería Luis Adelantado, Valencia, Spain (2004); Museum Géo-Charles, Echirrolles, France (2005); Gallery the Orange, Seoul, Korea (2008); Prague Biennale 4 (2009); Italian Expo Pavillion, Shanghai (2012); and, Galleria D'Arte Moderna, Milan (2015). In 2006 he joined the Unicredit collection and in 2013 the UBS Art Collection.