

ADRIANO POMPA

Adriano Pompa is a painter and sculptor of great refinement, whose work ranges over different techniques: from oil painting, engraving, sculpture to ceramics. His tale is consistent and gripping full of references to classical fourteenth to sixteenth century traditions, Baroque culture and classical mythology; from majolica and interior decoration, a mirror of many regional schools of the best Italian craftsmanship. His painting has precise and rigorous linguistic schemes: the use of gold leaf, engraving, drawing, the insertion of other languages within the pictorial medium, to form a complex pictorial framework, a wedge of references to the history of art but also to that of literature. His is a pictorial and linguistic game that combines vision and intellect, painting and reasoning, which leads the viewer to wander between enchanted plains, lush landscapes full of wonderful plants and never seen before, mythological figures, adventures and feats of very strange beings that seem to come from an ancient medieval bestiary. The genre in which Pompa works is in fact that of the fantastic and the symbolic: he has chosen to recover the symbolic dimension of existence, to return to see the objects, the actions, the expressions as the symbols of a reality which, though changing in its external aspects, does not change however in its essential characteristics. In fact Pompa tells us about a symbolic and fantastic world, through the symbols that the history of art has always used: knights, helmets, flying dragons, enchanted and golden landscapes. His is a digression in that boundless territory that is the history of art, fishing now from a sixteenth century vase now from a detail found in a baroque portal, stealing suggestions of great Italian poetry from Ariosto to Dante, to return them to us in the form of painting or sculpture. For Galleria Vik Milano, Pompa has thus chosen to recreate a room as a paintings gallery in imitation of those of the seventeenth century, in which the paintings, the engravings, the objects follow each other, almost to the ceiling, matched according to their size and colour so as to create a single visual story.

Adriano Pompa was born in Rome in 1965, he learnt artistic techniques by going to his father's shop, the painter Gateano Pompa, from whom he inherited the passion for figurative art and for the themes of fantasy and magic. After making his debut in 1989, together with his father, at the Rondanini gallery in Rome with a presentation by Vittorio Sgarbi, he began to exhibit systematically in galleries and public spaces. He exhibited in Rome, Milan, Bologna, Ferrara, Piacenza and in many Italian museums. In 2003 he participated in the exhibition *The modern way of Rosso Fiorentino and today's painting* at the Sandro Parmeggiani Museum in Cento. After a solo exhibition at the Casa Cini in Ferrara (2004) he showed 26 paintings on the theme and atmosphere of the *Orlando Furioso*. In 2007 he exhibited in Washington and in the following years he took part in collective exhibitions in many Italian and European cities. He has also received many requests for the creation of large bas-reliefs for the external decoration of facades and courtyards of buildings and country villas in Piacenza, Milan, Rome and Tuscany.

