



Andrea Grotto

CASABASE

May 25th - September 15th, 2023

Nashira Gallery is pleased to invite you to the opening of Andrea Grotto's first solo exhibition in the gallery's spaces, entitled "Casabase", which will be held on Thursday, May 25th from 6:00 pm at Via Vincenzo Monti n. 21 in Milan (1st floor).

THE EXHIBITION

What is a home? The place where we return every night after our various daily activities?

The place where we sometimes accumulate our personal belongings, clothes, books, electronic gadgets?

Surely in recent years there has been a lot of talk about home as a space, given that we were forced to stay there for a long time. Advice on how to arrange furniture to attract more positive energy, what colors to paint the walls to promote joy or a sense of serenity, and instructions for performing any repairs independently have been our everyday life to keep ourselves occupied. But, perhaps, a real thought about what a "Home" is or what can really be considered such has not been made. As sometimes happens, the go-ahead to start a series of deeper reflections is given by more sensitive personalities such as philosophers or artists.

The artist Andrea Grotto has dedicated a lot of attention to the theme of the building house, having been personally involved in the renovation of his own for some years. Through his work, he has not only gained a deeper understanding of the concepts of kitchens, living rooms, and studies, as well as the significance of furniture placement and lighting design, and he has also learned to appreciate the potential of professional techniques and materials that are typically outside of the field of art. Finally, he has read about and studied the concepts and values that are key to making a dwelling feel like HOME.

This is how Casabase was born, a term borrowed from baseball to indicate the tile you return to after a lap of the field, passing through the intermediate bases, to score a point, which becomes the perfect title to indicate the gallery space where Grotto wants to let us in, take a tour and enter his world. Casabase is also the title of the painting that opens the exhibition, a painting that in terms of texture and colors can be reminiscent of the graffiti of early cavemen, such as those in the caves of Lascaux in France: on a red background, you can see the outline of a house, the walls, the roof as if they were all wrapped in smoke or flames.... it's the idea of home when it begins to materialize in the mind of humankind, something still very undefined, a simple shelter that will grow into much more, and from which we go out to discover the globe.

There are landscapes in this world that we visit and explore on travel, but there are also landscapes in our own homes. In 1794, the French intellectual Xavier de Maistre wrote "Journey around my room", in which he narrates his explorations in the stories of the objects, paintings and clothes that surround him, real explorations that are made only with the mind. Andrea Grotto does the same thing with the works of the exhibition, in which he brings back the "landscapes" captured within his domestic walls.



But can't the fabrics that are typically used to decorate rooms with their multicolored skylines created by the warp and weft not be referred to as landscapes?

The artist brings back some of them with oil paint on prepared plasterboard, a technique that enhances the material aspect of the subjects: In *A colori come in sogno*, (99 x 73.5 cm, oil on scratched plaster on plasterboard, 2023), in which we intuit the multicolored fabric of a Missoni quilt; *Febbraio '89*, (100 x 82.5 cm, oil on plaster scratched on plasterboard, 2023), a cardigan with a geometric design; *Cannaregio 2016*, (64.5, x 90.5 cm oil on plaster scratched on plasterboard, 2023), the detail of a rug; these are not simply objects, but also the stories and memories they tell: his first quilt, his mother's sweater, a carpet given as a gift.

The objects that are passed down in the family are not only, in fact, a transmission of affection, but also of knowledge and know-how: old wooden boards used by his grandfather to work become for Grotto chairs and benches in which to insert his own works; the centerpieces made by his grandmother in crochet the bases with which to make pottery and terracotta.

Commonplace items and domestic environments appear to be distant from the realm of symbols and archetypes typically employed by the artist, which are deduced from cosmology, alchemy, and other cultures.

Two distant universes that can coexist very well as demonstrated by the large installation, made especially for the exhibition: used leather seats (the domestic side) carved with various symbologies.

Andrea Grotto's exhibition aims to be a representation of an ideal of home, with its warmth, its memories, its sense of familiarity, its emotions, its landscapes.

Works made for a home. Home made Art.



THE ARTIST

Andrea Grotto

(Schio, 1989)

Andrea Grotto attended the Venice Academy of Fine Arts and its vibrant art scene graduating in Painting with Prof Carlo Di Raco. He has participated in various residencies and competitions in Italy and abroad including: the Atelier of the Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa in Venice, the Combat Prize, the GlogauAir in Berlin, the Fabbri Prize, the Ora Prize and the Michetti Prize. An excellent painter and draughtsman, in his paintings the artist gives voice, with a refined painting, to his imagery poised between reality and dream. Depictions that at the same time disorient and engage the viewer precisely because of this continuous transition between being and could be. Works in which elements drawn from nature such as plants, minerals and animals are mixed with quotations from Greek statuary, medieval and cosmological documents, and all in one flow of images and thoughts and symbols intended to lead the viewer to reflect on the world, contemporary society and timeless themes.

Selected solo exhibitions:

Brucia Luce, Galleria Arrivada Milano, curated by Samuele Menin, (2018); *Un punto da ballerina*, Casa Capra, Schio, curated by Saverio Bonato (2018); *Leda | Grecale*, Galleria Caterina Tognon, Venice (2017); *Project Showcase*, Glogau-Air residency, Berlin (2014).

Selected group exhibitions and residencies:

Come un'onda, come in volo (1923-2023) curated by Massimiliano Fabbri, Lugo di Romagna (2023); *La Profezia*, Nashira Gallery, Milan (2022 - 2023); *Venice Time Case (2022-23)*, a traveling project curated by Luca Massimo Barbero (2022); *Who Killed Bamby*, curated by Gianluca D'Incà Levis, Casso (2022); *Landina*, Villa Frescobaldi-Fumagalli, Laveno, (VA) curated by Lorenza Boisi (2019); *Il lanternista*, in collaboration with Gli Impresari, Tenuta dello scompiglio, Lucca, curated by Angel Moya Garcia (2018); *Versus the artist's challenge to his model in a century of Photography and Drawing*, Modena Galleria Civica, curated by Andrea Bruciati, Daniele De Luigi, Serena Goldoni (2016); Biennale Giovani 3, Academy of Fine Arts of Bologna and Museum of the city of Rimini curated by Renato Barilli, Guido Molinari and Guido Bartorelli (2015); *98th Young Artists' Collective*, Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation Galleria di San Marco, Venice, curated by Angela Vettese (2014).

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