

Christelle Labourgade

A survey exhibition dedicated to painter Christelle Labourgade and curated by Laura Ginapri will be inaugurated on Wednesday 25 May in the exposition area of the Andrea Tardini Gallery. The vernissage will begin at 18:30.

The exhibition will remain open from 26 May to 25 July.

This French artist has now returned to Venice with a exhibition of works created over a considerable period of time, covering almost fifteen years. During her life she has travelled to and lived in many places: after the *École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts* in Paris her studies brought her to Florence, following which she set out for Africa, where she remained for a number of years: the Comoros, Mali, Guinea, Tunisia. She then settled in Marseilles and a few years later moved once again, to Venice, staying on the Giudecca Island. In 2013 she returned to Paris. Andrea Tardini and Laura Ginapri met her in her new Parisian atelier and were dazzled by her most recent paintings, in which bright yellows are composed and decomposed in stratifications created by way of new experimentations in oil technique. Labourgade uses intense colour palettes for works in which timeless figures or presences can be glimpsed on the horizon. These highly distinctive visions, which take shape through a skilful use of chiaroscuro and the creation of scenographies of light and shadow based on wide expanses of colour, bear the influence of one artist in particular who ranks among her most noteworthy aesthetic precursors: Mark Rothko.

Labourgade's pastel works and large oil paintings dedicated to Venice mark a new stage of her production, a fresh beginning that emerges out of a re-composition of meanings discovered in various

locations around the world and within her own sensibility.

Christelle Labourgade is a politically active artist, as witnessed by the series of drawings currently being publishing by the French weekly *Le I*, dedicated to the question of social exclusion.

The Andrea Tardini Gallery is proud to represent such an intense artist, for whom art and a unique philosophy of life come together in a distinctly harmonic mixture.

Andrea Tardini Gallery

The Andrea Tardini Gallery was created in Venice on the Giudecca, an island sought after as a residence by many artists in recent years. Founded by Andrea Tardini in 2015, the idea behind the gallery is to give life to an animated and eventful space and create encounters.

The gallery's underlying philosophy leads it to search for emerging or internationally established artists and follow them with care and attention, respecting their work and their sensibility.

One of its sections is dedicated to exploring artistic movements in Venice and the surrounding area from the post-war years to the present, focusing in particular on artists who have experienced the history of their region and followed a path that is often experimental, significant and intense.

As Achille Bonito Oliva has written, “Art is not intended to solve problems but to produce questions, to move consciences as to the many issues that currently concern our planet. This is what explains the ecological nature of artistic creation, the ethical need felt by the latest generation as well to represent a moral resistance, a constructive will to live when faced with political and social drift and a chaos that seems irreversible.”

Precisely within this sign of resistance, and this constructive will to live in the present, is where the current project tied to contemporary art is situated, inevitably tending, with respect and balance, towards a utopian reawakening of our sensibility.

Andrea Tardini gallery

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Opening hours: from Tuesday to Sunday, 15:00-20:00