

Alberto Di Fabio

di **Simone Ciglia**

Infinitely large to the infinitely small: the art meeting of Alberto Di Fabio (Avezzano, 1966) knows no half measures. His work was born from the art and science, and unfolds in the field of painting. From astronomic to geography through subatomic physics through chemistry and biology: the elements of nature are the track that guides the performance.

Simone Ciglia: What was your training?

Alberto Di Fabio: I was born in Abruzzo, in the midst of beautiful mountains. My luck was to have an artist father, whereas my mother was a teacher of natural sciences. From this union was born my love for nature and its elements. I started as a child (especially through the books) to draw mountains, landscapes, rocks ... I traveled a lot, to see what God, nature gives us. From macro I then entered into the microcosm, studying mineral mergers and how the basic elements of the world of physics were created. I love the concept of cosmic dance in India they call it Shiva, in the West we call it quantum physics. Each of us has a sensitivity that allows him/her to feel the heartbeat of the planet. There is a sense of spirituality that is universal in man kind, in every element of nature. In my work I try to encapsulate a whole quantum.

What are your references in painting?

In painting I've always been fascinated by artists such as Giotto, Titian, Mondrian, de Chirico, Ernst, Kokoschka, the Impressionists, up to American Abstract Expressionism: Motherwell, De Kooning, Pollock, Kline and yet Stella, Kelly, etc. ...

For me they are still bound to the painting, the construction of an exhibition in a gallery in a fairly traditional way.

How is the relationship between art and science in your work?

When I work, I read scientific texts in parallel. There is a perfection, harmony and chaos in the system of physics, chemistry, biology, which I find very interesting and inspiring. All my work is closely related to scientific theories, such as that of curved and convex spaces, the Big Bang and other theories on the creation of the universe. As they used to prepare the canvas with chalk and rabbit glue, I prepare the canvas with these theories. I try to rise from the earthly they life of every day and enter these levels of theories and philosophies, trying to describe in a visual way, with colors and with the sign. Sometimes I try to follow a more poetic direction. All images belong to a rule, infinitely precise wich can be found in every element around us. This is what inspires me a lot: the perfection and chaos that belong to all the physical elements.

How is the ecological theme developed instead?

Today it is very easy to talk about ethics, ecology, and many people do. In my work I try to explain that what is given to us is to worship and maintain. My works are part of a cosmic ecological breath, but descriptively. Today we are full of wealth, consumism has become our god. Now it is fashionable to invoke environmental sustainability, but first of all it is necessary to support our neurons, the approach with ourselves and with those close to us. We are a very aggressive race which is making all the other animals disappear on the planet, and it is destroying it. We are very close to the divine fire which will reshuffle all, we hope in our own self-preservation.

What do you think is the role of the artist today?

The artists are like antennas: in my thought is like a superior entity talking me, telling me things to say. But the god at the end is us, is the strong energy stronger of every human being. As monks, as philosophers we must remain calm, serene, humble: this is how I see the figure of the artist today. We have to dig even deeper into philosophy, propaganda of a mental and visual wealth. It's too easy to think only about money or fame: we could have done many other jobs to get to this goal. Our task is a bit 'more serious and time consuming.

How do you experience the success you have achieved?

Finally after many years in the ranks the first results arrive. The secret of life is to believe in things, a good technique, ambition, work consistently ensure that the fruits after arrive. Young people dream of success as artists as Damien Hirst, but never spends time in the studio. For my part I always thought of building works that would rule the years and generations to come. I still do not know if I did it, but I am much more focused on the content of the work that on other aspects of the art system.

Time is another fundamental element of reflection in your work.

What is lost is the human biological time. My recent exhibitions have taken as an argument neurons and synapses. Life has become much faster, focus has become very difficult. One of the greatest American neurologists said in a theory that neurons have been five seconds ahead of the pace of human life. We are charged with ambitions and dreams and we are never happy. It is a vortex that only stops when we breathe horizontally - like a yoga breath, between the mind and the stomach - and we are glad of what we did during the day. I always say that to people who are to me: try to stay calm, to focus and write a little poem. That's what gives me so much happiness, those hours of concentration on the work itself.

You are carrying on a project on the island of Ponza where the ecology becomes direct engagement. What's it about?

I lived ten years in New York. In an urban setting like Manhattan's I was dreaming inside of me to recreate a little bit of paradise. I found an ancient property in Ponza and with my sister we renewed it in 9 years. I planted about 400 plants to recreate the forest as it was thousands of years ago. I also cleared an open dump. It is an open project to friends that want to find nature and write a book, paint, play. It is a point of meditation for us human beings. The dream is to create a center where you various philosophies can meet. I realize that for this project, a life is not enough, just, perhaps, to put a seed.

Alberto Di Fabio was born in 1966 in Avezzano (AQ). Lives and works between Rome and New York.

Recent solo exhibitions:

- 2010 - *Over the Rainbow*, Galleria Pack, Milano
- *Alberto Di Fabio*, Gagosian Gallery, New York
- 2009 - *Alberto Di Fabio*, Gagosian Gallery, London
- *Insomnia*, Galleria Pack, Milano
- *Sinestesia*, Umberto di Marino, Napoli

Recent group exhibitions:

- 2010 - *SuperEco*, a cura di A. Capasso, E. Nobile Mino ed Edicola Notte, ex-Aranciera del Semenzaio di San Sisto, Roma
- 2008 - *XV Esposizione Quadriennale d'Arte di Roma*, Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Roma

- *Punti di vista*, Unicredit Private Banking, Napoli
- *The Big Bang. Il cosmo visto con gli occhi dell'arte*, Museo Carlo Bilotti, Roma
- 2007 - *On the edge of vision*, Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta, India
- National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, India
- National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai, India

Galleries of interest:

Gagosian Gallery New York, Londra, Beverly Hills, Roma, Atene
Galleria Pack, Milano
Galleria Umberto Di Marino, Napoli