

Legacy

una storia di amore e di eredità culturale



The Legacy of an Exchange

by Gabriella Esposito

"The purpose of this magnificent journey of mine is not to delude myself, but to know myself in my relationship with objects."

With these words, Goethe described the intrinsic motivations of his trip to Italy in 1786. Indeed, if the eighteenth-century Grand Tour represented an intercultural experience of study and knowledge of otherness exclusive to a cultural elite, the activities and initiatives carried out over the years by ART1307 take the form of an ideal modern, democratized continuum of that. With nearly twenty years of activity (initiated precisely in 2007), ART1307 represents in Italy a hybrid reality between an art gallery and a cultural association. Its founding nucleus, since the beginning, has been shaped around the desire to encourage dialogue among diverse worlds—both geographically and artistically. As such, ART1307 serves as a living and dynamic medium for ideas, innovation, and creativity, where individual aspirations can regenerate and find new lifeblood through mutual exchange with the experiences of others.

While ART1307 maintains significant connections with European and Asian artists—evident in the naturalistic research of works by Pilar Soberón and Giulia Manfredi, or in the pictorial expressions of Japanese artists like Yasunari Nakagomi's interior landscapes and Fujio Nishida's depictions of daily rituals—it is the bond between Italy and the United States, particularly with Los Angeles, that truly defines the essence of ART1307. Los Angeles is the birthplace of the iconic Light and Space art movement: that creates a connection that resonates deeply within ART1307's identity.

The exhibition will showcase numerous figures from the California art scene, including Ned Evans, Peter Lodato, and Laddie Jhon Dill. It will also engage in dialogue with artists associated with movements more closely aligned with abstractionism, such as Todd Williamson, known for his vibrant color backgrounds, as well as those whose work leans more towards pure sculpture, exemplified by Brad Howe, Eric Johnson, and Simon Toparovsky.

These American artists will also be joined by an equally impressive group of Italian artists who have been integral to the association's activities over the years. Among them are Amedeo Sanzone, known for his lexan paintings/sculptures, Marco Abbamondi whose work explores the intersections of the natural and human worlds, Alex Pinna with his existentialist depictions, and Carla Viparelli, whose visual representations carry a captivating ambiguity.

Therefore, it was with these intentions in mind that the decision was made to present approximately 70 artists associated with the collection and life experiences of Cynthia and Renato Penna at the prestigious Art Hotel Grand Paradiso in Sorrento. Cynthia and Renato Penna are not only collectors and patrons but also ardent lovers of art and advocates for sharing its beauty.

This exhibition promises to be rich and heterogeneous, featuring a diverse array of works in terms of geographic origin, poetics, styles, movements, mediums, and formats. As observers, we will be delighted by a series of artworks that encapsulate this diversity.

When viewed through the lens of ART1307's unwavering commitment to creating connections through artistic residencies—both in Los Angeles with Italian artists and in Naples with foreign ones—it becomes evident that the collection represents not only the result of artistic interchange but also, and perhaps most importantly, a way of relating that promote a deeper understanding of oneself through the perspectives of others.

An ideal artistic journey unfolds before us, aiming to illuminate a path of interconnectedness with the other that transcends the narcissistic tendencies often imposed by contemporary society. Through a diverse array of works and artists, this journey seeks to foster the emergence of a multitude of voices.

As philosopher Maura Gancitano aptly puts it, "the interconnectedness of things, the reflection of one in another, shines a clear light; each human is but a single, mere ripple in a network of networks." This sentiment encapsulates the essence of the exhibition, highlighting the profound interconnectedness that exists between individuals and, therefore, the importance of recognizing and embracing the multitude of perspectives that comprise our collective existence.