

Text by Gianluca Ranzi - excerpt

Seeing is thinking: Stefano Chiassai's gentle revolution

The line drawn by the artist becomes a journey, blending together figures, ornamentation, colours and writing. But there is more: Stefano Chiassai's art shows that the body of a word, a flower, a bee, or even a familiar face such as that of Jannick Sinner, is not just a graphic sign that refers to a particular identity or meaning.

This is how Stefano Chiassai's drawings are created, in which black lines and colour begin to make their way across the page, gradually expanding and opening up worlds within worlds, encounters and journeys, connections and layers, comparisons and dialogues, "sidereal maps of thought and emotion".

After all, thought does not calculate convenience, says the artist, but helps us to dream, and the words that blossom alongside the drawings weave a psychedelic garden in which the message is entrusted as much to images as to words: Peace – Future – Hope – Dreams – Humanity – Equality is a visual act of resistance, a desire expressed with strength and tenderness, a symbolic map of the human condition that invites us to dream again.

Even the writing, so present in these works, is brought close to the image, almost becoming a pictogram, and in this way the word also acquires autonomy of itself and its means, extending and branching out into space in a lush cluster of generous, repeated, germinating signs that pass from the sheet to the canvas of the tapestries, contaminating objects and clothes, becoming ephemeral sculpture in motion on the body or monumental civic presence in the lost wax bronze casting.

This line of research reaffirms the interference between word, image and thought, according to a conception of the work that is based on the intersection of languages and therefore also makes strategic use of multimedia and, above all, intermediality, just as when Stefano Chiassai opens up the boundaries of individual disciplines, techniques and media to a conscious and transversal reading of events.

Chiassai adopts the fundamental assumption that a single point of view is both limiting and misleading, and his digging beneath the surface of events testifies to a creative method that does not establish hierarchies but, on the contrary, discovers equivalences, horizons of critical meaning and communicating vessels of memory and shared experiences.

Here, drawing-writing, disembodied from the news but rooted in the world and in the depths of the soul, even freed from the identities of the names "portrayed", becomes space and time, manifesting itself as a sound wave that disarticulates and recomposes itself through various media, becoming vision on canvas and emotion in colour, dimensional openness in video and dialogue with space in installation and sculpture.

Seeing is therefore thinking in order to bear witness and take a stand; the artist is allowed only one form of intolerance, that towards indifference and intolerance itself.

The profound meaning of the creative fluidity that embraces Stefano Chiassai's work also lies in this aspect, whereby the world of reason is always made to dialogue with the irrational, in order to arrive, as the artist defines it in several of his texts, at a form of Ordered Chaos. The mind circulates freely without inhibitions or restrictions, but it must not be clouded, as if to say that dreams do not hijack thought, but expand its possibilities.

In this way, each of Stefano Chiassai's works of art becomes a mobile and open field, a relational and complex system in which figures, words and facts interact and intertwine, revealing a vital impetus that asks the observer to assume a joyful mobility of thought and to resonate with this very special Ordered Chaos.

Stefano Chiassai's art is ultimately a generous one, which has discovered beauty and enchantment in the continuous variation of the forms of the world, remaining alien to any form of closure and arbitrariness.