

**STUDIO MUSEO FRANCESCO MESSINA**

Via San Sisto 4/A - Milan

**BELLE DI NATURA****Opere di Gianluca Balocco e Zachari Logan**

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**BEAUTIFUL BY NATURE****Works by Gianluca Balocco and Zachari Logan***curated by Francesca Bacci and Maria Fratelli*

9 March - 4 April 2018

**Opening Thursday 8 March, 5.30pm****with**Filippo Del Corno, *Councillor for Culture*Maria Fratelli, *director Studio Museo Francesco Messina*Francesca Bacci, *art historian*Gianluca Balocco and Zachari Logan, *artists***music commentary for harp**Rosangela Bonardi, *Civica Orchestra di Fiati del Comune di Milano*

pieces of C. Saint Saens, A. Hasselmans, Verdi-Oberthur, G.F. Haendel, G. Paradisi, C. Debussy

**guests of honour****Aida Accolla, Carla Fracci, Luciana Savignano***press release, 8.03.2018*

In the historical rooms of **Studio Museo Francesco Messina**, the visitor can admire the exhibition **BELLE DI NATURA. Opere di Gianluca Balocco e Zachari Logan** (BEAUTIFUL BY NATURE. Works by Gianluca Balocco and Zachari Logan), curated by Francesca Bacci and Maria Fratelli, open from 9 March to 4 April. The sublime sculptures by the master – dedicated to the **three ballerinas Aida Accolla, Carla Fracci and Luciana Savignano** in the 1970s – are here displayed next to photographs of the *étoiles*, which are today portrayed by Balocco, and next to the naturalistic drawings on the affinities of the universe by Logan.

The grand opening of the exhibition is on 8 March, on International Women's Day, with the participation of the three internationally known ballerinas, Accolla, Fracci and Savignano, cause for reflection on beauty, how we build it in our culture, and how it exists in nature.

The exhibition is organized by the Council of Milan, Department of Culture – Studio Museo Francesco Messina. Pursued by the director of the museum, Maria Fratelli, the display is part of the series of events "Il lato della scultura" ("The side of sculpture") that is dedicated to the relationship between sculpture and bi-dimensional image, either photograph or drawing.

"The exhibition highlights the ability of Francesco Messina to capture the never-changing essence of his portraits, which are today revisited by Balocco with the same care and interpretative strength. The photographs of the three internationally famous ballerinas, Accolla, Fracci and Savignano - next to the drawings by Logan - recompose the continuity and harmony of nature, of which man is a part. Planet Earth is a whole, the aim of art is to recompose it in a hug," says Maria

Fratelli, highlighting the *fil rouge* that links the artists in a revelation of beauty joined with the harmony of nature.

For the exhibition the three charismatic ballerinas have been portrayed by **Gianluca Balocco**, thanks to a specific photographic set fitted in the historical rooms of **Palazzo Reale**; the three stars of ballet stand out for their strength and expressiveness, in their slender and flexible like a rod body shaped by time. **Aida Accolla** interprets many roles with creativity and irony, identifying herself in a plant crossing the different seasons while wearing dresses devised and made by her. **Carla Fracci** conveys her poised and graceful nature while portrayed in a 10m long green dress that is in tune with nature and points out the importance of the passing of time. **Luciana Savignano** expresses energy and power in a stage costume, which is meant to remind the viewer of the vitality of flowers and natural elements.

The curator **Francesca Bacci** compares their natural beauty – the result of experience and maturity – to that in the plant kingdom: “in nature, indeed, the mature plants are praised; those plants that once reached a certain maturity slow down their growth and focus on managing their complex structure. It is the beauty of a form shaped by time, made by strength and passion, resilience and flexibility, a beauty that demands respect.”

The connection with the plant world becomes inescapable also in the polychrome works by **Zachari Logan** who presents *The Gate* (10m tall) a *specially made* pastel drawing of large size: it develops vertically up the three floors of the museum like a tapestry. The work represents different varieties of vegetation that thin out in the upper part, as a metaphor of spiritual ascension key to a new world. This work - which floats at the centre of the museum – represents the infinite variety of trees, tropical plants and pervasive plants that are fundamental for the ecosystem due to their role in the bio-balance of planet earth. In Logan’s drawings, one can admire a vegetation that - similarly to man - expresses its own feelings through its roots, flowers and pistils, sometimes endowed with human features to show the affinity.

The portrait *Naked in the Roses* is in the underground floor: here, among the leaves of a garden, one can glimpse the figure of the artist walking naked. This subject summarises the vision of athletic male bodies and graceful feminine features represented by Messina.

Special thanks to Dr Domenico Piraina, Direttore Area Polo Mostre e Musei Scientifici - Director of the Group of Scientific Exhibitions and Museums, for hosting Gianluca Balocco’s photographic set in Palazzo Reale.

The exhibition is made also with the contribution of the sponsors, Lucenova Srl and BIG Broker Insurance Group/CiaccioArte

### **Exhibition details**

**Title** BELLE DI NATURA. Opere di Gianluca Balocco e Zachari Logan/BEAUTIFUL BY NATURE.

Works by Gianluca Balocco and Zachari Logan

**Curated by** Francesca Bacci and Maria Fratelli

**Venue** Studio Museo Francesco Messina, via San Sisto 4/A - Milan

**Dates** 9 March - 4 April 2018

**Opening** Thursday 8 March, 5.30pm

**Opening Hours** Tuesday - Sunday, 10am-6pm. Monday closed

**Entrance** free

**Info to the public** Ph. +39 02 86453005 - c.museomessina@comune.milano.it

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