

# Salvo 1974 - 2004

curated by Alberto Fiz  
Mazzoleni Gallery (ex Nuova Gissi) - Turin  
20 March 2004 - 10 May 2004

After the great retrospective of Alberto Burri, the Mazzoleni Gallery continues its activity presenting a selected solo exhibition of Salvo, absolute protagonist of Italian art, from 19 March to 10 May. On this occasion there have been selected 50 works of special relevance which document Salvo's artistic career from 1974 to 2004. They are thirty years of research that the artist was able to retrace with absolute originality, modifying the codex of painting and regenerating the language based on an investigation born from the continuous overcoming of physical and mental states.

In the exhibition the most representative subjects of Salvo's work are taken into consideration with a particular attention to landscapes and the reinterpretation of mythological subjects. In this regard the most representative work is, without doubt, "Trionfo di San Giorgio/Triumph of Saint George", a large canvas of almost 3m in height and more than 7m in length, made in 1974. "Salvo", as the curator of the exhibition Alberto Fiz writes, "uses the painting means as a formal system of rules looking for its primary component. His painting is a painting born from the continuous overcoming of physical places". After all, it is Salvo himself who states: "the object is the field around your body: the vegetation, the tree, the sky. The distinction is what proves how the mystery of things is never really definable".

Salvo (Salvatore Mangione) is one of the most successful Italian painters. Born in Sicily (in Leonforte, province of Enna, in 1947), but from Turin by adoption, since the beginning of the 1970s he undertook an experimental investigation linked to photography, at the centre of which there is the identity of the artist himself, ironically transfigured as an ancient painter or saint. From 1973 he tried his hand at figurative painting and also in this field he expressed his love for quotations in an ironic light, for example bringing back iconic classical themes such as that of Saint George and the Dragon. The bright Mediterranean colours, the geometrical simplicity of shapes, the neatness of the spacial relations, the lightness of the images, they all become the unmistakable stylistic feature of Salvo, which will characterize all his works.

Among the numerous exhibitions worth mentioning in which Salvo took part are the Biennale of Venice, in 1976 and 1984, Documenta 5 in 1972, the solo exhibition at Villa delle Rose in Bologna in 1998 and the exhibition Die Sammlung Paul Maenz in Weimar in 1999.