



BIBLIOTECA DEL DAVERIO

Piazza Bertarelli 4 - Milan

Mani mani mani. AGRON HOTI. Ritratti milanesi
Hands hands hands. AGRON HOTI. Milanese portraits

16 - 28 March 2018

opening Thursday 15 March, 6pm

presentation by Philippe Daverio

curated by Sebastiano Daverio

press release, 6.03.2018

Biblioteca del Daverio hosts from 16 to 28 March the solo exhibition of **Agron Hoti**, “Mani mani mani. Agron Hoti. Ritratti milanesi/Hands hands hands. Agron Hoti. Milanese portraits” which will be presented by Philippe Daverio during the grand opening on Thursday, 15 March. It is curated by Sebastiano Daverio who is also responsible for the setting up.

The exhibition presents a selection of **new works**, all made in 2017: diptychs made up of a portrait and an abstract board: famous people, who belong to the art world, science and history, and who were exposed to Milan during their lives. Their representations – a black and white image – is enriched by a colourful hand and a side stripe that becomes the main hue of the work itself as it recurs also in the superior part where there are splashes of the same colour together with black ones. During his artistic career, Agron Hoti dedicated himself to the making of abstract works of large sizes, where the power of the work is conveyed through the chromatic element.

In addition to being a **homage to the portrayed subjects**, the colouring of the hands is a metaphor of the fundamental contribution that each one of them brought to society, as per Agron Hoti’s own words “*with their hands they made marvellous gestures, gave a positive contribution to their times. The abstract sign is a symbol of freedom, of a new life given to these characters, a contribution aimed at keeping them alive in our memory and in the future*”.

It is the instinctive gesture that leads the artist during his association of the colour with the person, so that *Lucio Fontana* is placed next to red, *Giorgio Gaber* to yellow, *Piero Manzoni* to green, *Eugenio Montale* to ochre, *Tomas Milian* to orange and *Giorgio Strehler* to blue.

The several works on display also represent an inner dimension that has points of contact with psychoanalysis: the characters here portrayed are subconsciously associated by the collective to ideas and as Philippe Daverio says: “*Thus it is born a soul theatre where images of memories appear, memories that are collective and shape contemporary identity. The twenty-first century is preparing the icons for posterity*”.

Agron Hoti was born in Mamurras, Albania, in 1970. Already in his childhood, he demonstrated a particular interest towards drawing and attended lessons at Pashuk Lala’s workshop. He attended the Classical Lyceum, but showed such an inclination for art that

the headmaster allowed him to have a small personal workshop inside the school. He had his first solo exhibition in Kruja in 1985.

In 1991, he moved to Greece, where mostly he dedicated himself to intaglio, iconographic painting and restoration work. Later, in 2001, he relocated to Verona, Italy, and dedicated himself completely to painting, opening up his own workshop in 2007.

Since 2009, he has displayed in many solo and group exhibitions, in Italy and abroad. Worth mentioning are the former courthouse of Verona (2009), the French Church of Casablanca in Marocco (2010), the former WWII bunker in Vincenza (2012), the Giardino dei Giusti of Verona (2013), the National Gallery of Tirana (2015), the Parliament of Düsseldorf (2015), and Villa Verità Poeta in Verona (2017). Some of his works have also been displayed in Turin, Milan, Innsbruck, Paris, Shanghai and New York.

He made a series of works for "Pagani" - a car manufacturer founded by Argentinian Horacio Pagani - and collaborated with artists the likes of Milo Manara and Hugo Pratt.

He now lives and works in Verona.

www.agronhoti.it

The **Biblioteca del Daverio** is located in the refectory of an old convent, on the top of which at the end of the 1700s was constructed today's building. Here it is hosted the *Crocifissione/Crucifixion* by Donato Montorfano (1460-1502). The fresco is linked to the tradition of the Lombardy Region art, and it is a twin representation of the fresco that is displayed on the opposite wall to the *Ultima Cena/The Last Supper* by Leonardo in Santa Maria delle Grazie, Milan.

Exhibition details

Title Mani mani mani. Agron Hoti. Ritratti milanesi/ Hands hands hands. Agron Hoti.

Milanese portraits

Venue Biblioteca del Daverio - Piazza Bertarelli 4, Milan

Dates 16 - 28 March 2018

Opening Thursday 15 March, 6pm

Presentation by Philippe Daverio

Opening Hours Mon - Sun, from 11am to 6pm

Entrance free

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