

GALLERIA ARTESPRESSIONE

via della Palla 3 (corner of via Torino), Milan

Adriana Bisi Fabbri **Precorrere i tempi**

curated by Matteo Pacini

Introductory text by Luigi Sansone

2 March–1 April 2023

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Galleria Artespressione presents **Adriana Bisi Fabbri: Precorrere i tempi** [Ahead of Her Time]. Curated by **Matteo Pacini** with an introductory text by **Luigi Sansone**, the exhibition is dedicated to the great painter, illustrator and caricaturist from the last century, highlighting her complexity, irony and eclecticism.

This important artistic and cultural profile produced by **Paula Nora Seegy's** Milan gallery provides an in-depth exploration of several artistic currents from the 19th and 20th centuries, initiating a cycle of events that will concentrate on a number of outstanding artists who for various reasons are little known to the general public. On display from 2 March to 1 April 2023 are medium- and small-format **works on paper** that highlight the art and aesthetic of Adriana Bisi Fabbri in the form of **portraits, unusual self-portraits, caricatures, sketches, posters and fashion illustrations**. These artworks trace the artistic career of a woman who was ahead of her time and who masterfully captured moods and sentiments that establish her as a pioneer of a new way of experiencing femininity.

In the words of Matteo Pacini, 'This exhibition represents an opportunity to restore to a great but underappreciated twentieth-century artist the recognition she deserves, given the complexity, irony and eclecticism of her diverse and brilliant body of work, which until now has received far less acclaim than is its due. Despite the troubled circumstances of her life, Adriana Bisi Fabbri forged a path in a male-dominated era. Due to her innate talent and discerning intelligence, today she represents the model of a free, independent woman who was able to transform her destiny. She expressed her wide-ranging creativity and passion for experimentation through a variety of mediums. In fact, the exhibition features evocative **works in oil, pastel, tempera, watercolour, pencil, India ink, sanguine and mixed media**, which identify her as an exponent of the 'audacious' movement.

Adriana Bisi Fabbri was always open to modernity and innovation: she intuited, anticipated and interpreted the expressive forms and currents animating Italian art, from Divisionism to Futurism and in Europe, the Secession movement and Expressionism.

The exhibition illustrates the multifaceted production of an artist who has left us a multitude of intimate, 'delicate and familiar' works, as Luigi Sansone notes, in which 'her strong familial bond is a constant source of inspiration in portraying her husband and sons Marco and Riccardo in a variety of attitudes, exemplified by the drawings *Giannetto Bisi and Adriana Reading* (c. 1906); *Giannetto Bisi Reading* (c. 1906), in which she captures the most psychologically intense and typical expression of their existence.' In addition to works of this type, there are also sophisticated fashion illustrations, among them *Study for a Dress* (1911); penetrating caricatures, such as *The Alpinist* or *The God of the Germans*; and profound, enigmatic portraits and self-portraits, whose refined strokes and skilful chiaroscuro create faces that emerge from the paper with surprising expressive force.

Adriana Bisi Fabbri (1881–1918) was born in Ferrara, where she attended the school of painter Nicola Laurenti and met her future husband and journalist Giannetto Bisi. She later moved to Padua, the guest of her aunt Cecilia Forlani, Umberto Boccioni's mother, and subsequently to Milan, where she completed her painting studies and enriched her training as a self-taught artist by attending the studios of Gaetano Previati and Luigi Conconi. In 1908, she debuted with two drawings at the Second Quadrennial Exhibition in Turin. In 1911, she took part in *Frigidarium*, the international humour exhibition organised at Castello di Rivoli, where she won a bronze medal. That same year she was invited to the First Exhibition of Free Art, organised in Milan by Umberto Boccioni and other Futurists, and also appeared in Rome, where she held her first solo exhibition in the halls of the Palazzo Torlonia Lyceum. During her stay in the capital she met Futurists Luciano Folgore and Giacomo Balla. In 1913, she participated in the Bergamo Humorous Art Exhibition, for which she designed both the postcard and large poster. In 1914, invited by Leonardo Dudreville, she joined and exhibited with the Nuove Tendenze group. During World War I, many of her politically motivated drawings were published in the newspaper *Il Popolo d'Italia*. She also worked with *La Domenica Illustrata* and executed fashion illustrations for the fashion house founded by Domenico Ventura. In 1918, she moved for health reasons to Travedona, Varese, with her friend Teresa Tallone Somarè, daughter of the well-known painter Cesare Tallone. Her condition worsened, and she died on 29 May 1918, leaving a significant artistic and cultural legacy.

ARTESPRESSION was established by Paula Nora Seegy in 2009 with the aim of fostering interaction and synergies among various art forms at a venue designed to host exhibitions and events in the heart of 'old Milan'. The gallery comprises three exhibition areas on the second floor of an elegant building in Via della Palla 3, a side street off central Via Torino in the heart of Milan, adjacent to the historic Piazza Sant'Alessandro.

Artespressione follows an autonomous approach, unrepresentative of any specific artistic tendency. Curated by Matteo Pacini, the gallery offers an exhibition programme with an international flavour and a discerning, evenly balanced focus on painting, sculpture and photography. Artespressione organises solo and group exhibitions, both at the gallery and other venues, and successfully participates in festivals, events and art fairs in Italy and abroad.

Exhibition details

Title Adriana Bisi Fabbri. Precorrere i tempi

Curated by Matteo Pacini

Introductory text by Luigi Sansone

Venue Artespressione, via della Palla 3, Milan

Dates March 2-April 1, 2023

Opening Thursday, March 2, 6:30 p.m.

Hours Tuesday - Saturday 12-7 p.m.

Free admission

Information and visits by appointment

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