

RENATA RAMPAZZI

Natura Viva

From 29 March to 31 May 2025

*Opening with the presence of the artist
Saturday 29 March from 6 pm to 8.30 pm*

At Mazarine Variations Gallery, the NATURA VIVA exhibition presents around thirty oils on canvas from the 1960s and 1970s.

These are figurative works in the first style of this so-called abstract painter for her later production. "Works of a figuration which nevertheless are located at the limits of the informal", writes the critic Claudio Strinati in the catalog which accompanies the exhibition, which recall a relationship with the American informality of Pollock or with that of Emilio Vedova, with whom Renata Rampazzi worked. However, if informal art itself is a "penetration", because Pollock walked on the canvases and spread the color, in the case of Renata Rampazzi it is exactly the opposite because her paintings, the flowers, the celery, are literally "extracted" from the surface, from the support. In other words, Renata Rampazzi works as if the shapes were born on the surface of the work and moved towards the viewer.



Renata Rampazzi
Fiori su Fondo Azzurro, 1972
Oil on canvas - cm 70 x 100

The shapes are somehow alive. (...) These are works which refer to the cultural climate of rebirth and blossoming of the 60s and 70s and characterized by a very strong vitalism, by a subject deeply experienced and treated. Which convey a feeling of fullness: "the fullness of living." For the writer Lidia Ravera, Renata Rampazzi's flowers are "the symbol of the transience of beauty." The flowers fade. They have sparkly liveries that are the opposite of durability. She therefore chooses flowers to describe the state of grace in which one is beautiful, the moment of flowering in the summer of life. And at the same time, by loading them with her spatula strokes, her violent and vivid colors and a material painting, she tries as best she can to transform them into something that can resist the wear and tear of time. Which may not disappear. At the beginning of her career as an artist, she found the right oxymoron to tell what was dear to her at that moment, and which will be dear to her throughout her life, and which is the problem of all artists: the struggle between the ephemeral and the duration.



Renata Rampazzi
Fiori, 1971
Oil on canvas - cm 70 x 50



Renata Rampazzi
Fiori, 1972
Oil on canvas- cm 70 x 50

Renata Rampazzi was born in Turin into a family of Italian-French origin. Thanks to the sensitivity of her family environment - her uncle is the composer Alberto Bruni Tedeschi and her aunt Marisa, a famous pianist - she developed a passion for painting from an early age and attended the high school of fine arts then completed her studies at the Faculty of Architecture.

Her first important solo exhibition at the Galleria dello Scudo in Verona dates back to 1973. In 1974, she was invited to Asolo for a solo exhibition at the International Art Festival organized with the Maeght Foundation. In 1975, she exhibited at the Olivetti Center in Paris. She then decided to deepen her research by working first alongside Emilio Vedova, with whom she approached abstract expressionism, then with the Chinese painter Zao-Wou-Ki. In 1977, at the Vismara Arte Contemporanea Gallery in Milan, she exhibited deeply suffered works, marked by large wounds and marked expressionist gestures. Subsequently, the experience of oriental calligraphy combined with European informality will open up new horizons for her and mark her artistic career, giving her works the enigmatic and sensual aspect which had become her personal signature. In 1979, she won the Bolaffi Prize.

In the early 1980s, she moved to Rome with director Giorgio Treves. Her works became particularly large in format and the brushwork more relaxed and rich in transparencies and colors. Her first works on paper with the techniques of gouache and oil pastel date back to these years. Coming into contact with the world of cinema and theater, for *Family Group in an Interior*, Luchino Visconti asked her for paintings in blue and purple tones and Margarethe von Trotta commissioned several paintings from her for *L'Africana* and *Le Long Silence*. She collaborated with Mario Martone for *The Smell of Blood* and with Valeria Magli for the costumes for the dance action *La Chatte*. In recent years, she has exhibited in important museums, fairs and galleries, notably at the Palazzo dei Diamanti in Ferrara (1984) and at the Petit Palais d'Art Moderne in Geneva (1989). In 1985, she received the Bolaffi Prize for the second time.

Since the 2000s her painting has developed around multiple compositions and small format paintings. In 2006, a large anthology was dedicated to her at the State Archives of Turin and in 2010, a personal exhibition organized by Vittorio Sgarbi at the Convent of San Nicolò in Spoleto as part of the 53rd Festival dei Due Mondi.

In 2011, she was at the Venice International Art Biennale, at the Palazzo Venezia in Rome. In 2013, she exhibited the first Sospensioni at the Espace Culturel du Lavandou, presented by the critic Olivier Kaepelin, director of the Maeght Foundation. In 2018, she created the installation *Cruor* in Venice for the Giorgio Cini Foundation (curators Claudio Strinati and Dacia Maraini) which in 2020 was presented at the Carlo Bilotti Aranciera Museum at Villa Borghese in Rome with the 46 oils on canvas constituting the preparatory sketches.

Renata Rampazzi's works can be found in numerous museums in Italy and abroad as well as in numerous public and private foundations and collections.



Renata Rampazzi
Paesaggio, 1969
Oil on canvas— cm 50 x 70

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Founded in 1988 as PIECE UNIQUE, its original concept was to exhibit each time a single work of art created especially for the space by a contemporary artist.

In February 2000, the gallery expanded to a new space at 26, rue Mazarine in order to permanently display the works of the artists represented and to organize special events throughout the year.

Since February 2020, Marussa Gravagnuolo and Christine Lahoud have concentrated their activities at 26, rue Mazarine in the space now called "MAZARINE VARIATIONS".

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Tuesday – Saturday: 2.30 pm – 7 pm

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MazarineVariations>
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