

VANITAS

TRACES OF BEAUTY

John Paul Azzopardi | Enrica Borghi | Carlotta Brunetti | Paolo Minioni | Franco Rasma

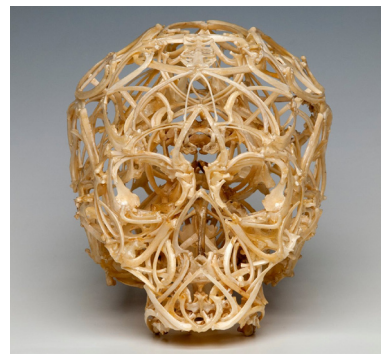
07 September - 14 October 2018

No 20 is delighted to announce *VANITAS: Traces of Beauty*, a group show featuring works by **John Paul Azzopardi**, **Enrica Borghi**, **Carlotta Brunetti**, **Paolo Minioni** and **Franco Rasma**. Curated by Giovanna Nicoletti, the exhibition presents contemporary takes on the 17thC European tradition of representing the reality and shortness of life through *memento mori* - artworks designed to remind the viewer of their mortality and of the fragility of human life.

Made of animal bones interwoven and folded, the sculptures of **John Paul Azzopardi** feature the classical *vanitas* elements of skulls and musical instruments. His works possess the lightness of the ephemeral and the complexity of an ancient weave, showing all their fragility and strength at the same time.

On a very similar note, albeit adopting a different aesthetic, **Carlotta Brunetti's** sculptures made of plaster and iron show her preference for simple geometrical forms and natural elements. The exhibition also features a garment by the artist made entirely of feathers that descends from the ceiling and finishes on the floor.

Equally intriguing are the works of **Enrica Borghi**, who uses waste materials and presents them in a new guise, reinventing their appearance and making them regain their lost lustre. The Piedmontese artist has always worked with sculpture, knowingly and provocatively transforming the pre-existent: plastic bottles - like the ones floating in the sea - hang in the gallery space like jellyfish, while metallic sweet wrappers become precious jewels or mosaic tiles.



John Paul Azzopardi
Untitled Nr. 7 (2016)



Carlotta Brunetti
Detail of **Foam** (2017)



Enrica Borghi
Busto (2017)

Franco Rasma's contribution to the exhibition follows his recent intervention at the Estorick Collection. Including paintings and sculptures, his works - defined by his sketchy and textural style - are an expression of his concern for the immaterial and non-visible rather than the clearly defined. The connotations of Rasma's mysterious style serve to elevate everyday objects and scenarios, while questioning the ordinary as well as the notions of time and space.



Franco Rasma
Untitled (2010)

Photography also finds its place in this exhibition. The work of **Paolo Minioni** captures the vibrant aura of abandoned objects: what remains of a little plant that does not want to die, or the terracotta of empty vases that still brim with life. Often overlooked, they still have stories to tell, things to recount. The lights and shadows in his black and white photographs might suggest a scarce inner resilience of things that actually represent their strength.



Paolo Minioni
Still life cyclamen (2005)

VANITAS: *Traces of Beauty* is an opportunity to revisit the classical motif through a contemporary lens. Like in the ancient forms of *vanitas*, the works of these artists also reflect on the themes of beauty and its brevity, highlighting a constant that establishes a dialogue between the past and the present.

About No 20

Opened in January 2017, No 20 is a centre for contemporary arts that hosts a programme of exhibitions, performances and events that support emerging and established artists working across all media.

For more information and prices, please contact info@no20arts.com

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