

Biography

Born 1961 in Capua, Italy.

Lives and works in Innsbruck; previously in Italy since 1985.

1979 - 2017 Employee of the Italian Federal Railways.

Since 1980 also active as a freelance artist and cultural mediator.

2001 Artistic secondary school, Valdagno (Italy).

2016 Completed studies in history at the University of Innsbruck (Mag. Phil.).

2017 - 2019 Training at the Cignaroli Academy of Applied Arts in Verona.

2018 - 2021 Researcher within the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) project: "Changing Social Representations of Political Order ca. 1800. Concepts of Ideal Governance in the Correspondence of Queen Maria Carolina of Naples-Sicily".

Group exhibitions

2024

- Collective exhibition "KUNSTMARKT" 2024, at Congress Innsbruck. From 15.11.2024 to 17.11.2024.
- Collective exhibition "VIENNA ART SUMMER 24" from 11 to 31 July 2024, at Citygallery Vienna.
- Collective exhibition ARTBOX PROJECT Basel 3.0, from 13 to 16 June 2024 at Basel Airport.
- Two-person art exhibition "GENESI" from 21 April to 5 May at the Campania Provincial Museum of Capua.
- Collective exhibition Nominate for the award "Premio NY 2024". From 9 to 23 March 2024 at Queen Art Studio Padua.
- Collective exhibition USA TOUR Biennale 23/24; 04-07 April 2024; ARTEXPO New York Fair. At Pier 36 Manhattan New York.
- Collective exhibition USA TOUR Biennale 23/24; Los Angeles. February 14-18, 2024 LA Art Show Fair. AT THE CONVENTION CENTER West Hall

2023

- Dubai Art Expo 2023, United Arab Emirates from 16 to 23 December 2023. At the Dubai International Art Center.
- Street of the Arts. International Art Expo from 4. 11 to 4. 12 at Queen Art Studio Gallery International Art Center, Padua.
- Collective exhibition USA TOUR Biennale 23/24; Miami December 06-10, 2023 at SPECTRUM Miami Fair.
- Collective exhibition USA TOUR Biennale 23/24; Washington DC November 24, 2023 at Capitol Ballroom Holiday Inn Capitol Hill.
- ART FAIR SHOPPING – CARROUSEL DU LOUVRE exhibition; 21 – 23 October.
- Sanremo 1st Artexpò Biennial. From 17 to 17 September 2023 At the Ariston Theater.
- Personal exhibition at AK Bildungshof Seehof Innsbruck. Vernissage 31 May 2023 at 19:00. Exhibition from 31 May to 23 June 2023.
- Artist of the year in Brussels. From 4 to 28 January at the Espace Art Gallery Brussels.

2022

The Narrators of Our Time:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=539675230851583&external_log_id=8ecf935e-778c-4d69-b9b9-cbeb3bfa63c4&q=vittorio%20sgarbi%20i%20narratori%20del

-Imperial Palace Innsbruck from 05 May to 29 May 2022.

-International Maestri Prize in Milan, at the Teatro Manzoni on 10-11 January at 10:00 am.

2021

-Vittorio Sgarbi Award, Ferrara, Italy, 29.10. - 1.11.2021.

-Oscar for Creativity, Monte-Carlo, Monaco, 16.10.2021.

-Biennale d'Arte Città di Cesenatico, Italy, 26.06. - 30.08.2021.

-Artexpo Award 2020, Effetto Arte Gallery, Palermo, Italien, 11. - 18.4.2021.

2020

-restArt the Planet, Virtual Exhibition, London, 27.11.202 - 5.1.2021.

-Fake Space, Virtual Exhibition, London, 4.11.2020 - 4.12.2020.

-International Art Award Torino 2020, Piacenza, Italien, 22 - 23.10.2020.

-Leonardo da Vinci Award, Virtual Exhibition in Palazzo Ximenes Panciatichi, Florence, Italien 27.9.2020.

-Raffaello Sanzio Award, Area Contesa Arte, via Margutta, Rom, Italien, 17. - 22.9.2020.

Awards

Oscar for Creativity, Monte-Carlo, 2021.

Golden Lion Trophy for Visual Arts, Venice, 2021.

European Critic Award for Visual Arts 2021, Cesenatico, Italien.

Creativity Award, Artist of the Year, Palermo Artexpò, 2020.

International Art Award Torino, 2. Award, 2020.

Raffaello Sanzio Award, 4. Award, Rome, 2020.

Texts

GIOVANNI MEROLA: ART FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE

The artist Giovanni Merola possesses a remarkable ability to select subjects that inspire him and to reinterpret them in a unique and transformative manner. This skill of reinterpretation is evident in every one of his works, which becomes a symbol of awareness for the conservation of nature.

The artist has chosen to use his art as a means to approach environmental protection and to convey his message to a global audience. His paintings convey a sense of liveliness and dynamism, making it seem as if the subjects and objects depicted are almost emerging from the painting itself. This technique creates an engaging and stimulating visual effect for the viewer, who feels drawn into the work.

Merola's ability to create this sense of three-dimensionality and movement through the use of colors is truly remarkable. His paintings offer an intense and engaging visual experience that leaves a strong impression and makes the work truly memorable.

The artistic techniques used, but above all, the themes addressed, contribute to conveying the message of nature conservation. The choice to use art as a tool to raise awareness about the importance of nature conservation is commendable. The artist seeks to reach as many people as possible worldwide, aiming to create a significant impact through his message.

Maria Grazia Todaro, Art Director, and Critic at QueenArtStudio Gallery
October 2023
www.queenartstudio.it

Giovanni Merola was born in 1961 in Capua. The artistic disposition accompanies him in his childhood and adolescence, although he finds himself forced to abandon his studies becoming a Volunteer Military Engineer in the Railway Engineers. After several years he will attend the art school of Valdagno and the Cignaroli Academy in Verona. Today he lives in Innsbruck, where, in addition to his stay on the railway, he is part of a project dedicated to Maria Carolina Habsburg-Lorraine. From his homeland he brings with him the philosophy of never giving up, because as E. De Filippo, great of the Neapolitan theater wrote, "The exams never end". His works are born from a sudden illumination: Merola sees something that attracts his attention and imagines it under certain specific light, color, and composition reflections, and he begins to experiment until he finds what strikes him most emotionally. In the last period he has dedicated himself to the pictorial project Intrusive Plastic, choosing specific subjects, reworking, and transforming them: each work is a symbol of awareness and desire to preserve nature, trying, in this way of expressing himself for the protection of the environment, to achieve and raise awareness with your message as many people as possible in the world.¹

A transformation of emotional details of the soul and unconscious fears, described through a clear and ethereal technique. His art is the sublime realisation of the unreal dream, with the transfiguration of reality in an aesthetic dimension of immediate communicative appeal, thought-provoking.

Rosanna Chetta, 2021².

The artist demonstrates a masterful ability to dose chromatic tones in a perfect harmonic balance of the whole with creative developments of his research that points towards strong current emotions. His pictorial elaborations show essential gestures in continuous movement, with compositional developments and translations of an accusatory reality that trace narrative actions with an emotional filter.

¹ Leonarda Zappulla, ART NOW Promotore di creatività, numero VI, anno V, p. 43.

² Rosanna Chetta, Art Biennial, City of Cesenatico. European Critical Award for Visual Arts 2021, Artexpò Edizioni, Cesenatico 2021, S. 102-103.

Rosanna Chetta, 2021³.

A sublime use of cold colours, almost as if to perceive frost as a metaphor for the solitude of the subjects depicted, set in golden, uncontaminated surroundings. The stroke is confident, juxtaposing lighter and darker colours and converging towards clearer details with the aim of always keeping the value of the whole high.

Rosanna Chetta, 2021⁴.

An artist who enters an Eduard Hopper-inspired world that borders on Pop Art hyperrealism, especially in two of his works, Cuba and Miss America. In both cases, his remarkable mastery of drawing and colour is key. In one, the author tells us how an ankle and a heel, the symbolic expression of a bursting femininity, can be placed in a context that takes us back to the sixties and makes us relive that atmosphere, all with a simple framing of just three details: the car bumper, the ankle and the amazing heel. On the other hand, he offers us the sliver of the classic car, reflective lights on whose body or bumper the images of the surrounding world are reflected. There are other works, not included in the above, that are the result of further research by the artist to define other figurative devices that move towards surreal expressionism, such as Ecstasy and Emotional Contrast. I would include Pop Bottle among the light experiences he has made to show the artist's ability to play with light and reflections and to create situations that can be easily inserted into everyday life.

Kritik von Orazio Vancheri, 2020⁵.

The selection of one of his works for the Leonardo da Vinci Award proves the value of his stylistic path, which is a valid example of expressive preciousness. I can only rejoice at his significant presence at this history-making event.

Sandro Serradifalco, 2020⁶.

Bibliographies

Arteelite, One hundred years of masterpieces. 1920 - 2000. Series: ASBA Art Paths. Edizioni Associazione Nazionale Salvaguardia Belle Arti, 2020, S. 59 - 60.

ART NOW Promoter of Creativity, number V - year III, September/October 2020, Palermo 2020, S. 385.

ART NOW Promotore di creatività, issue I - year IV, January/February 2021, Palermo 2021, S. 83.

Raffaello Sanzio International Award. 17 September / 22 September 2020, Area Contesa Arte via Margutta, 90 Rome, Caltanissetta 2020, S. 26 – 27.

³ Rosanna Chetta, Golden Lion Trophy for Visual Arts. Conferimento Critico internazionale 2021, Venice, Artexpò Edizioni, Venice 2021, S. 122-123.

⁴ Rosanna Chetta, Oscar della creatività. Conferimento della Critica internazionale 2021, Principato di Monaco – Montecarlo Bay 16 ottobre 2021, Artexpò Edizioni, Principato di Monaco 2021, S. 142-143.

⁵ URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsQ1GwyBSyM>.

⁶ ART NOW Promoter of Creativity, Issue V - Year III, September/October 2020, Palermo 2020, S. 385.

Artists '21. Annuario Internazionale d'Arte Contemporanea, Luca Beatrice, Angelo Crespi, Philippe Daverio, Vittorio Sgarbi, Palermo 2021, pp. 698, 1051, 1337⁷.
Edition Magazine "Art NOW" Art Magazine, September / October 2020. Art-now.it number V - year III.
EA Effetto Arte Club Association, Vittorio Sgarbi Award, Vol. 1-6, Palermo 2021⁸.

Scientific publications

Giovanni Merola, Graphic, layout, and cover design of Verbrannte Visionen? Erinnerungsorte der Täufer in Tirol, Astrid von Schlachta, Ellinor Forster, Giovanni Merola (eds.), Innsbruck 2007, pp. 1-202.

Giovanni Merola: Queen Maria Carolina's reflections on reforms in the Kingdom of Naples and Sicily 1781-1785, in: Römische Historische Mitteilungen 60 (2018), S. 219 – 240.

Queen Maria Carolina's reflections on reforms in the Kingdom of Naples and Sicily 1781-1785. Präsentation bei der Konferenz: Maria Carolina. Queen of Naples between revolution, restoration and exile Austrian Historical Institute, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Rome, 30.03.2017⁹.

Scientific presentations:

"Wechselnde gesellschaftliche Repräsentationen politischer Ordnung ca. 1800 - Governmental Concepts in the Correspondence of Maria Carolina of Naples Sicily" bei Digi-Day: Digital Humanities des 18. Jahrhunderts (Universität Innsbruck), Innsbruck, 16.05.2019 (mit Ellinor Forster, Jonathan Singerton, Anne-Sophie Dénoue).

Conference title: Distancing from the old and anticipating the new? Rearranging State and Society in the 18th Century in Temporal Perspective. Giovanni Merola Lecture: Da vicino. Ferdinando IV di Borbone e le sue riforme sociali ed economiche. Austrian Academy of Sciences Rome, 21 - 24.09.2021¹⁰.

⁷ Mondadori Edition. Presentation of the International Yearbook of Contemporary Art "Artisti '21" 16 July 2021, Sala Fellini, Roma Eventi.

⁸ Vittorio Sgarbi, Sandro Serradifalco, EA Effetto Arte Club, Vittorio Sgarbi Award, Vol. 1, Palermo 2021, p. 591.

⁹ Andreas Gottsmann, Austrian Academy of Sciences. Historical Institute at the Austrian Cultural Forum in Rome. 60th volume, 2018, Vienna 2019, pp. 219-240.

¹⁰ Organising team: Andreas Gottsmann, Romina Iannuzzi, Ellinor Forster, Jonathan Singerton, Giovanni Merola, Anne-Sophie Dénoue, Austrian Academy of Sciences. Historical Institute at the Austrian Cultural Forum Rome.