

AGOSTINO ARRIVABENE
Anastasis

From 7th September to 2nd October 2016

opening: wednesday september 7th, 6.30 p.m.

Casa del Mantegna, Mantua (Italy)

The exhibition, which opens simultaneously with the **Festivaletteratura 2016**, is edited by Alberto Mattia Martini and Gianfranco Ferlisi, organised by the Province of Mantua – Department for Cultural Policies, Information and Territorial Identity, and offers some 30 among the most recent **works** of this artist from Cremona, from 2010 to date.

Anastasis harks back to the iconographic theme of Byzantine art and represents Christ's Resurrection and His descent into hell to recover the souls of Adam and Eve. A representation which brings to mind Orpheus' journey – here shown in a painting dated 1994 – and on which there is a repeated echo of the Early Christian reinterpretation of the mythical bard, seen as the foreshadowing of the death and resurrection of Christ. For the first evangelical communities, in fact, the symbolism of Orpheus with his cithara was interpreted as a Christological image, in reference to the Saviour who triumphs over nature.

As the Vice President of the Province of Mantua, **Francesco Zaltieri**, emphasizes, "Agostino Arrivabene's exhibition explores and brings into focus an aesthetic journey that is characterized by images of a classical matrix, revisited in contemporary terms [...] this inspiration translates into paintings from which an auspicious attention towards that which is sacred emerges. Extremely refined oils on canvas reaffirm this artist's identity and his European-wide value: an artist who has always juxtaposed fascinating reminders of the world of mythology and literature with careful attention to the construction of the painting, from a technical viewpoint, too".

The exhibition expresses a strong feeling of contemporaneity, which corresponds to the commitment of participating in the collective contributory effort that sees **Mantua** as the **Italian Cultural Capital** this year.

Within the exhibition Agostino Arrivabene will converse with Andrea Mantegna's masterpiece, *Cristo morto*, through the citation of two contemporary artists of the likes of Carlo Fabre and Alessandra Borsetti Venier, who, in the Nineties, created a real synergy on this theme, creating a series of photographic shots that revisit the drama of Christ's death in a contemporary interpretation.

Arrivabene, with his own personal manipulation of the couple Fabre-Borsetti Venier's photographic forms, together with Andrea Mantegna's painting, undertakes a work of deformation of the bodies. The result is a monumental painting – *Resurrection* – and a triptych in which he reveals the metamorphic stages of the body, which from flesh is changed into a glorious body.

We shall meet a awesome and mystical dialogue between the figures of the Messiah, Mary and the 'angels of effusion', or rather angelic figures streaked with the Divine Blood along the exhibition's route, together with a series of works recalling to mind the

Renaissance codes and harking back to more actual experiments. A veiled *Pietas* covered in gold leaf, for example, will reconstruct the *maphorion*, the veils of consecrated virgins.

There are numerous evident contrasts and temporal distances in this exhibition that speak of the mystery of the ↓↓Sacred Blood↑↑, that right here in Mantua has been devoted since ancient times as a sacred relic and which Agostino Arrivabene reinterprets in the painting *Ecce Homo*, where the blood shed reveals the woody swellings of the stigmata.

The exhibition catalogue will be printed by Publipaolini, Mantua, with an introduction by Francesca Zaltieri texts written by the editors.

Biographical Notes

Agostino Arrivabene was born in Rivolta d'Adda (CR) in 1976. A graduate of the Brera academy in Milan, during his years of self-taught training the artist rediscovered and adopted many of the traditional pictorial techniques (e.g., the artisanal preparation of the colours). His most important one-man exhibitions (a selection of ...) : "Hierogamy", Cara Gallery, New York, 2016; "Anabasis", Museo Civico delle Cappuccine di Bagnacavallo (RV), 2015; "Vesperbild", Galleria Giovanni Bonelli, Milano, 2014; "To pathei Mathos", Panorama Museum, Bad Frankenhausen, 2013.

AGOSTINO ARRIVABENE. *Anastasis*

Mantova, Casa del Mantegna (via Acerbi, 47)
september 7th october 2nd 2016

opening: wednesday september 7th 6.30 pm

Horairs:

Morning: from tuesday-sunday, 10-12.30

Afternoon: thursday, 3-5 p.m.; form friday-sunday;3-6 p.m.

Free entrance

Informations:

phone. +39 0376 360506 - +39 0376 432432

fax +39 0376 326685 -fax +39 0376 432433

mail: casadelmantegna@provincia.mantova.it - info@turismo.mantova.it

www.casadelmantegna.it; www.turismo.mantova.it

PressAgency

Provincia di Mantova - Ufficio stampa e comunicazione

Alessandra Ferrari

Tel. +39 0376 204322; alessandra.ferrari@provincia.mantova.it

PressAgency

CLP Relazioni Pubbliche

Francesco Sala, tel. 02 36 755 700

francesco.sala@clponline.it; www.clponline.it