

Paolo Ventura

Autobiografia per immagini

Milano, Galleria Anna Maria Consadori

June 17-July 22, 2022

Vernissage Thursday, June 16 | 6:30 p.m.

In *Autobiografia di un impostore* (Johan & Levi, 2021) Paolo Ventura chooses to recount his life in colors and words, accompanying it with reproductions of people, objects, environments and landscapes to form an iconography of his lived experience, vivid images that sink into memory. With a selection of large-format pictorial works on paper from those published in the book, this exhibition is dedicated to the visual aspect only, the "illustrations" to the text, which, regaining their importance, become works in their own right and outline a kind of "autobiography in pictures." From his childhood in a leaden 1970s Milan to the birth of his son Primo against the backdrop of a red New York sunset, they mark the sentimental and artistic apprenticeship of one of the most recognized and appreciated Italian photographers in Italy and abroad.

The son of a famous illustrator, Paolo Ventura grew up in the shadow of a mythomaniac and tyrannical father who never missed an opportunity to rage and chastise. Even on rainy afternoons when playing war, with paper toy soldiers built around broomsticks and flags made from toothpicks. Even in summers in Spilino, in the house in the woods, a place as magical as it is terrifying. His father's lies permeate Paul's entire childhood and feed his imagination. An imagination that soon becomes escape, salvation.

The artist explains, "When Laura Leonelli wrote my *Autobiografia di un impostore* we planned to illustrate it with photographs from family albums. Then, in fact, I thought they would reveal too much of a story that is as if doubled in regard to the facts it describes. So I decided to create large painted cards for each chapter of the book, to accompany the unfolding of the narrative of my life in the same evocative spirit."

On **Tuesday, June 28, at 6:30 p.m., Paolo Ventura and Laura Leonelli** will be at the gallery for a conversation in which the artist will reveal the behind-the-scenes details of his work, on a journey in search of the roots and stories that nourish his surreal imagery, populated by circus characters, soldiers, anonymous shopkeepers, and improvised magicians.

BIOGRAFIA

Paolo Ventura è uno dei fotografi italiani più originali, ha esposto in gallerie e musei in tutto il mondo e da qualche anno predilige la pittura. Tra i suoi libri, *War Souvenir* (2006), *Winter Stories* (2009), *L'Automa* (2011), *Short Stories* (2016), *Quarantine Diary* (2020), *Paolo Ventura. Photographs and Drawings* (2020) e *Autobiografia di un impostore, narrata da Laura Leonelli* (2021). Il suo lavoro è presente nelle collezioni del Boston Museum of Fine Arts, della Phillips Collection di Washington, della Maison Européenne de la Photographie di Parigi, del MART - Museo di Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto e del MAXXI - Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI secolo di Roma.

BIOGRAPHY

Paolo Ventura is one of the most original Italian photographers; he has exhibited in galleries and museums all over the world and for the past few years has preferred painting. His books include *War Souvenir* (2006), *Winter Stories* (2009), *L'Automa* (2011), *Short Stories* (2016), *Quarantine Diary* (2020), *Paolo Ventura. Photographs and Drawings* (2020) and *Autobiography of an Imposter, narrated by Laura Leonelli* (2021). His work is present in the collections of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Phillips Collection in Washington, the Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris, the mart - Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Trento and Rovereto, and the maxxi - National Museum of the Arts of the xxi century in Rome.

Contacts

Galleria Anna Maria Consadori

Via Brera 2, 20121 – Milano - 02 72021767

www.galleriaconsadori.com | info@galleriaconsadori.com

Opening hours

June 17 - July 22, 2022

Monday through Friday | 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Vernissage June 16 | 6:30 p.m.

By appointment +39 348 5840270