

The Young Ones is a group exhibition that brings together the works of five young artists: Daniele Antoniazzi, Mattia Barbalaco, Olmo Gasperini, Lau_Lana and Andrea Luzi. The project fulfills one of the main missions of the gallery, namely to promote and disseminate the work of emerging artists.

None of the artists on display is older than twenty-seven, yet their work already reflects a type of research developed and matured over time, linked to the experimentation of different techniques and materials, and the development of a personal style.

Daniele Antoniazzi draws inspiration from different sources, books, videos, photographs and magazines, creating digital collages to build his subjects before moving on to the act of painting. In his works we perceive an atmosphere of apparent calm, linked to Segantini's rural landscapes, which is upset, however, by highly expressive details which shake the silence of the surface - like a sudden fire behind a man walking his dogs, or simply through an acid and dystopian light, which clashes with the environment and the figures represented.

The scenes depicted by **Mattia Barbalaco** are awash with an enigmatic symbolism, which is embodied in apparently paradoxical elements, such as animals, props and emblematic or prophetic figures. A school setting recurs in these works and is shown as a place that is anything but reassuring. On the contrary, it is clear that something disturbing, perhaps even ferocious, is hidden in the room, where the observer's gaze cannot reach. Barbalaco's marked virtuosity accentuates the dreamlike and unsettling atmosphere.

The paintings of **Olmo Gasperini** transport the observer into a suspended space, where all seems poised between presence and absence. These interiors are empty rooms, pervaded by a feeling of waiting and solitude, which is challenged however by an aura of mysterious hope, which filters through the windows opening onto starry skies. Gasperini's rooms, despite the total absence of human figures, make one think of symbolic self-portraits.

Lau_Lana adopts an unusual technique in her canvases, embroidery, which takes the place of painting and drawing. The maritime setting recurs, linked to the origins of the artist, who was born in the seaside resort of Jesolo. The compositions are inspired by photographs, which allow us to focus our gaze on close-up and sometimes indiscreet, intimate and voyeuristic details. The beach, with its bathers, becomes the stage for figures who merge contradictory elements, such as lightness and alienation, innocence and eroticism, serenity and desolation.

The works of **Andrea Luzi** are imbued with multiple influences such as graffiti, music, record covers, and futuristic science fiction, combined with an approach closely linked to abstractionism. The principles described by Kandinsky in *Concerning the Spiritual in Art*, regarding the link between music and figurative art, time and space, expression and colour, are distorted by Luzi in a contemporary key and mixed with modern subcultures - psychedelic, electronic and punk. His creations are populated by anthropomorphic, vegetal and abstract elements, that at times seem to emerge from a Lovecraftian universe and remain difficult to decipher. Looking at Luzi's works one has the impression of entering a cryptic labyrinth of shapes and colours, where nothing intends to reveal itself explicitly.

Anna Gasperini