**INTERWOVEN**

*Interwoven* is an exhibition that brings together the work of **Kristina Milakovic** and **Marco Stefanucci**, two artists based in Rome who share a strong affinity in combining traditional and contemporary references and who both move from the figurative to abstraction.

**Kristina Milakovic** represents mental landscapes, the fruit of her own imagination, where naturalism blends with a highly expressive irrationality. In her new canvases, created using acrylic and bitumen, an acid green colour dominates, accentuating the dreamlike aspect of her landscapes and creating a strong contrast with the figurative elements. The atmospheres evoke an old and Romantic universe, bringing to mind painters such as William Turner.

In her early works, Milakovic explored an almost monochrome style but over time, she has experimented with the inclusion of colour, focusing on a single shade in each new series. She turned to green following a trip to Belgrade, where she spent time with her mother, also an artist, and was struck by her use of this colour on her canvases. This new chromatic choice therefore represents not only a formal innovation but an attempt to get closer to her family roots.

Central to the artist's research is the observation and study of light, captured in both calm and vibrant moments, and used to evoke a powerful life force.

The paintings of **Marco Stefanucci** look boldly to the past, filtering references through a veil of abstraction and mystery. His works are populated by mythological figures and faces vanishing into the depths of time. Looking at these canvases, one has the impression of being observed, rather than observing, and being left shrouded in a seductive and impenetrable fog.

Part of these paintings were created by using a photographic negative technique, an element that opens up a different layer of interpretation. By using a particular filter on one's phone, and framing the works, it is in fact possible to see the images 'positively', a factor that overturns the reading of them, underlining their innovative link with a contemporary world.

It is precisely this unprecedented fusion between ancient and modern that creates a strong sense of surprise and disorientation, loading the figures with a more intense meaning, linked to a reflection on memory in relation to a current and stratified gaze.

***Anna Gasperini***