

TRUE TO NATURE

True to Nature brings together the works of Anastasia Norenko, Sofia Podestà and Vera Rossi, three artists linked by their observation of the natural world and its elements.

The individual gaze with which each artist filters the outside world immediately emerges. It is not just a matter of different perspectives, but of a profound intimacy that binds these artists to their subjects, with which they seem to weave an inner dialogue destined to continue over time.

The paintings of **Anastasia Norenko** are created *en plein air*, combining direct study of place with an inner analysis that establishes a real and tangible connection with the subject matter. Her canvases feature almost photographic frames, enclosing vibrant, bucolic landscapes with bright colours, soft shapes and seemingly carefree strokes.

Through these devices, Norenko actively and explicitly rejects the contemporary hegemony of technology and new media, preferring traditional painting from life, on which she leaves a personal and at times dreamy imprint.

The themes of landscape and travel are central to the work of **Sofia Podestà**, who collects photographs of the places she has visited, usually with nature as the focal point.

Her interest, both pictorial and analytical, focuses on fairy-tale details, such as an expanse of flowers in the foreground, before moving on to distant views with a dark and disturbing appearance. The difference in planes represents a symbolic component in the two series presented, marking not only a spatial distance but also a mental one.

Nature presents itself in its dual temperament, first taking on the role of a reassuring and enchanted place, then showing its more arid and silent side. Here too, we witness a sort of silent and meditative conversation between space and the individual.

The work of **Vera Rossi** encompasses years of experimentation related to the construction of a dialogue with nature and its atmospheres. The artist uses photography as a means of relating to the outside world via a different point of view, which allows her to break down the rules of ordinary vision. To do this, she uses techniques such as graininess and soft focus, which allow her mental images to manifest themselves in a concrete way.

A constant feature of Rossi's shots is the inside/outside motif, often framed by the presence of a window. This element accentuates the evocative power of the images, suggesting an illusory and non-existent boundary that ends up dissolving into the immensity of the possible.

True to Nature is thus an emblematic title, its dual meaning, "true to nature" and "true to oneself", fully reflecting the course taken over the years by the artists featured in the exhibition. All three work on a series of subjects that recur over time, remaining true to themselves and to nature, which represents an inexhaustible source of inspiration for them.

Anna Gasperini