

Velasco Vitali

Sculptures



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March-April, 2011



After a monumental exhibition that spread from the Central Station to the Palazzo Reale in Milano, it is with boundless energy and determination that Italian artist Velasco Vitali (born Bellano 1960) arrives in Brussels to create an impressive artistic narrative.

The central figures are dogs, desolate individual members of a disoriented pack of strays that literally invade the gallery, depriving its visitors and its occupants of their usual space. These dogs, whose destinies have always been inextricably bound to Man's, draw the viewer's attention to the most problematic aspects of the human condition, from loss of individual identity to the hopeless adventures of mass migration. Velasco's vision of the world clearly raises questions regarding mankind's individual and collective identity, the meaning of existence and social destiny.

The artist refrains from realistic description, he puts forward neither interpretations nor judgments and he follows no storyline; he limits himself to staging a fascinating and alienating visual creation, to encourage contemplation, generating new sense and meaning.

For 10 years now Velasco has had a predilection for sculptures of dogs, molding and assembling them with a great variety of materials. Vitali's animals are almost always life-size, synthetically realistic though with considerable freedom, their postures convey tension through studied deformities; at times they are almost pathetic or dazed. Made of sheet metal (with the welding clearly visible), with metal skeletons (or metal mesh) covered in lumpy white plaster or else black traces of tar, or other materials and colors. Even in bronze but with a mutilated surface. Each dog seems to have a soul of its own, indeed it seems to be 'lonely as a dog' and conveys an estranging feeling of plastic solitude, no matter what position it is in. This plastic solitude persists, even when the artist brings together a pack of dogs, as in this installation. We never see dogs running or in an aggressive stance: these beings are resigned, bewildered and disoriented.

Notably, the artist baptized each with the name of a lost city, strange and exotic names such as: Varosha, Pripjat, Mohenjo-daro, Bannack, Suakin...



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« Birao », unique, iron and cement,
45 x 49 x 153 cm, 2006.

« Mohenjo-Daro », unique, iron and cement,
91 x 46 x 165 cm, 2010.



« Pripjat », unique, iron, sheet and paint,
109 x 50 x 43,5 cm, 2008.





« Kalapana », unique, iron and sheet,
22 x 72 x 124 cm, 2007



« Hashima », unique, iron and tar,
96 x 112 x 82 cm, 2006.

« Angkor », unique, iron and sheet,
23,5 x 91 x 70 cm, 2010.





« San Zhi », unique, iron and cement,
70 x 53,5 x 171 cm, 2010.

« Bannack », unique, iron and sheet,
17 x 71,5 x 138,5 cm, 2008.



« Mary Murphy », unique, iron & sheet,
84 x 64 x 59 cm, 2008.

BIOGRAPHY



- 1960 Born in Bellano, near the Lago di Como, Italy. His sphere of activity originally devoted to drawing and graphics soon developed to painting and sculpture. The meeting with Giovanni Testori and his taking part in the exhibition «Artists and Writers» at the Rotonda della Besana marked his calling.
- 1990 Following a number of one-man shows Velasco's work begins to concentrate on the tragedy that destroyed Valtellina at the end of the Eighties. The result is the exhibition «Paesaggio Cancellato» organized by Roberto Tassi in 1990.
- 1990 A distinctive trait of Velasco's work is his constant interest in portraiture, which gained approval in exhibitions and publications. His relation to the group Officina Milanese, at the end of the Nineties reveals a new interest: he discovers Sicily and the South of Italy.
- 2004 Electa publishes «Velasco20», a monograph with an article by Giulio Giorello while Charta brings out the catalogue for «Extramoenia», an exhibition that travels from Milano to Palermo.
- 2006 Velasco carries out a site-specific project for Teatro dell'Arte in Milano, Italy.
- 2007 Since 2007, Vitali collaborates with his designs in the «Corriere della Sera».
- 2010 Vitali invades the Piazza del Duomo and the complex of St. Augustine with an art project, titled «Sbarco» that combines painting and sculpture, curated by Fernando Mazzocca and Francesco Poli (Skira publishing), Pietrasanta, Italy.
- 2010 «Sbarco» is presented through the city of Milano, at the Central Station and the Palazzo Reale.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 Solo exhibition, LKFF Art & Sculpture Projects, Brussels, Belgium
- 2010 Velasco Vitali: «Sbarco a Milano». Stazione Centrale - Palazzo Reale, curated by Fernando Mazzocca & Francesco Poli, Milano, Italy
- 2010 «Sbarco» Chiesa e Chiostro di Sant'Agostino, Piazza del Duomo, curated by Fernando Mazzocca & Francesco Poli, Pietrasanta (Lucca), Italy
- 2009 «I Paesaggi e la Natura dell'Arte», group show devoted to the relationship between art and nature at the ARCOS Museum, Benevento, Italy
- 2008 Project LATO4, together with Danilo Eccher, Italy
- 2008 Triennale Bovisa, Junkbuilding, Italy
- 2007 «Pittura Italiana 1968-2007», Palazzo Reale, Milano, Italy
- 2007 «In Sondrio», with Marco Gastini and Simon Starling, Italy
- 2007 «Images Shapes and Nature in the Alps» (Electa), curated by Danilo Eccher, Italy
- 2007 «Ultime Ultime Cene» at the Cenacolo Vinciano (Galleria Gruppo Credito Valtellinese and Piccola Sacrestia of the Convent Santa Maria delle Grazie), Milano, Italy
- 2003 «Mixtura» (Charta) with Franco Battiato, Italy
- 2000 «Isolitudine» (Charta) with Ferdinando Scianna, Italy
- 1990 «Paesaggio Cancellato» organized by Roberto Tassi, Italy
- 1990 7 Biennale Internazionale di Scultura della Regione Piemonte, Italy

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

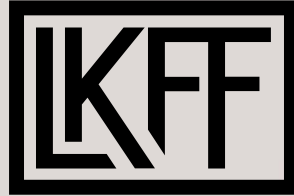
- 2010 «Velasco Vitali - Sbarco», Essays by Fernando Mazzocca and Francesco Poli, Ed. Skira, Italy
- 2008 «Milano Fantasma», Essay by Michael Mari, includes over a hundred drawings to tell the city of Milano (edt publishing), Italy
- 2008 «Lato4 - Velasco Vitali», Danilo Eccher, published by ProjectB, Milano, Italy
- 2006 «Tana - Velasco Vitali», Published by IF, Milano, Italy
- 2004 «Velasco20», essay by Giulio Giorello, Electa publishing, Italy
- 2004 «Extramoenia», exhibition catalogue published by Charta, Italy
- 2004 «Velasco Mixtura», Essays by Franco Battiato and Alessandro Riva, Charta Publishing, Italy
- 2004 «Gualtiero Marchesi», Emilio Tadini, Edizioni Pedrali, Milano, Italy
- 2000 «Isolitudine», Ferdinando Scianna & Dario Voltolini, Ed. Charta, Milano, Italy
- 1998 «Officina Milanese», Alessandro Riva, Edizioni Trentadue, Milano, Italy
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Since 1990, many recognized names on the Italian art scene have written about Vitali's work, amongst them: Franco Battiato, Pino Corrias, Danilo Eccher, Luca Doninelli, Giulio Giorello, Alessandro Riva, Ferdinando Scianna, Vittorio Sgarbi, Roberto Tassi and Giovanni Testori...

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

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