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Gianni Politi
The Duellists
24.02.23—24.03.23

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The best paint brushes are made of the bristle which grows on the animal's back—it is of sharp and shiny steel.

The animal grows up sniffing out its enemies. Not having any defences it has learned, over the course of millennia, to brush its steely fur against the hard walls of the waterfall rocks to sharpen it.

The animal protects itself from everything except the human creature and its unquenchable desire for possession.

The human creature lures the animal into a trap, and with patience and expertise extracts the bristle needles one by one; the human has learned that the only way to lay down oils and pigments is by using the glistening hairs of the wild beast.

The painter needs the brush to narrate a world that is personal and one that is of all humans.

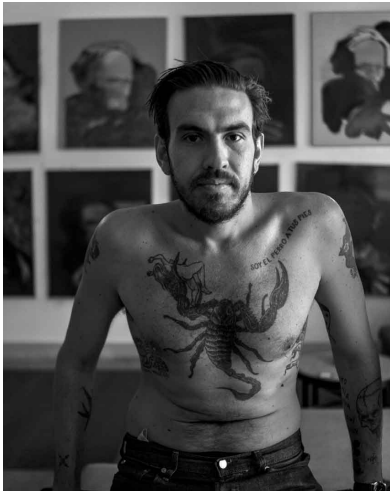
At times painters use the brush as a weapon to wound each other in their ongoing battle as rivals...who knows why they seem to always end up as such.

As for me—and I use many brushes—I strive to slay the other monster that lives inside of me.

—Gianni

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Gianni Politi was born in 1986 in Rome, where he lives and works today. His practice, mainly as a painter, is deeply rooted in both the classical and modern pictorial traditions of his native Italy, and his work strives to narrate the struggle of being a contemporary painter today.

His desire to understand the relationship between past and present is a driving force behind his painting, which shifts between abstract and figurative images—and from very large to very small canvases.

His large abstract paintings are often reflections on struggle, some literally inspired by military battles, others concerned with issues of contemporary society; the paintings are made by slashing and cutting works already made, and reassembling the different pieces onto larger canvases thus creating deeper new entities in a swirling dynamic.

In whilst for the portraits of a bearded man (a study of the 1770 painting by Gaetano Gandolfi) the artist relies on personal experience, investigating his role as both son and father as he produces the same figure from memory over and over again, in a different style every time.

Politi's work has been shown in numerous Italian institutions including the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, Rome, MACRO, Rome, and Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Palermo. Politi has had solo exhibitions in Italy, New York and Honk Kong.

Gianni Politi (1986, Rome) lives and works in Rome. His recent projects include a performance at Palazzo Barberini, Rome, 2021; a show curated by Sarah McCrory of sculpture and painting at Monteverdi, Siena; bronzes and paintings at Fonderia Battaglia, Milan, 2018; paintings at McNamara Art Projects, Hong Kong, 2018; bronzes at 56 Henry Street, New York, 2018; and shows at Nomas Foundation, Rome, 2015; MAXXI, Rome, 2015; Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, Rome, 2014; Istituto di Cultura Italiana, Prague, 2014.

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Gianni Politi

Born 1986, Rome, Italy

Lives and works in Rome, Italy

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *The Duellists*, Public Service Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2022 *The Rubaiyat Of Gianni Politi*, reading performance, Sant'Andrea De Scaphis, Rome, Italy
Le Fatiche Di A.C., a project for Hypermaremma, Talamone, Italy
Napoli. Enzo Cucchi E Gianni Politi, double solo show, Naples, Italy
- 2021 *The Last Stand*, Galleria Lorcan O'Neill, Rome, Italy
Gianni Politi, I Morti Non Muoiono, performance for Palazzo Barberini, Rome, Italy
Che Il Sole Scaldi Il Nostro Corpo Nudo, a project realized in collaboration with Galleria Lorcan O'Neill, Litografia Bulla, Rome, Italy
- 2020 *I Morti Non Muoiono (L' Amico Di Un Mio Amico E' Un Mio Amico)*
Palazzo Orsini, Bomarzo, Italy
- 2019 *Benvenuto (Anima Del Pittore Da Giovane)*, Centro Arti Visive, Pesaro, Italy
In The Belly Of The Serpent, Galleria Lorcan O'Neill, Roma, Italy
Gianni Politi, Monteverdi, Sarteano, Italy
- 2018 *2017*, a project realized in collaboration with Galleria Lorcan O'Neill, fanzine published by Cura Books Fonderia Artistica Battaglia, Milano, Italy
Bodybuilding, McNamara Art Project, Hong Kong, China
Paintings From The Old World, 56 Henry, New York City, USA
- 2017 *Scalza*, double solo with Giuseppe Buzzotta, Palazzo Zino, Palermo, Italy
Vussuria, Castello Di Carini, Palermo, Italy
- 2016 *Painting & Sculpture*, Galleria Lorcan O'Neill, Roma, Italy
- 2015 *Enzo & Gianni / Gianni & Enzo*, double solo with Enzo Cucchi, Sala d'Aspetto, Milano, Italy
Mountaintop Waterdrop, narrated by Enzo Cucchi and Giuseppe Gallo, Nomads Foundation, Roma, Italy
- 2014 *Tra Queste Sale (Malandrino)*, artist book published by Nero Gnam, Galleria Nazionale Di Arte Moderna, Roma, Italy
Giovane Pittore Romano, in residence with Albumarte Istituto Italiano Di Cultura Di Praga, Prague, Czech Republic
Nada, Italian Male Painter, Pier 36, Basketball City, New York City, USA
- 2013 *From The Studio (Nightrider)*, CO2, Roma, Italy
- 2012 *Viva La Muerte. Omaggio A S.Maria Gloriosa Dei Frari*, catalogue published by Cura Books, Biblioteca Casanatense, Roma, Italy
- 2011 *Le Cose Non Saranno Mai Piu' Come Prima*, Palazzo Collicola Arti Visive, Spoleto, Italy
A Brief History Of Pain, artist book published by Cura Books, CO2, Roma, Italy