

Contradiction? No, the artist tries to express, in painting, the contrasts that become pressing in our culture that is so composite and contaminated. Hardness and tenderness, structural strength and chromatic exhaustion, disgregation of the shape and its recomposition, bare rock and quick flesh, chaos and order: everything tends towards the unity of what is, precisely, the human condition. This is where the meaning of the metaphor of Antonella Peresson's painting lies: an allegory that is usually inspired by the female body to become the mirror of a plurality that is alive and aching, of our sensations, our feelings, our deepest needs. Once again our sight is drawn closer to the painting: almost drowned in it, absorbing its juices, capturing its fluids.

So it is clear that this is not a "graceful" kind of art, made to seduce. It is rather a type of art that wants to "speak" to itself and to other people. Her language is rough but also calm: hard yet persuasive.

Perhaps this vital impulse is not felt, not seen, not touched?

Antonella Peresson invites us to take off the mask of conventional behaviour: to strip, to look inside ourselves... I am personally troubled. But the jolt that I get - apart from the quality itself of the painting - does me good. The flesh becomes rock and the rock becomes flesh.

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