

# SCARAMOUCHE

Luigi Carboni

*Redesigning life, leaving words behind*

15 May – 19 July 2025

On Thursday 15 May, the Galleria Scaramouche is inaugurating the exhibition *Luigi Carboni. Redesigning life, leaving words behind*.

Luigi Carboni's research can be defined as an ideal threshold between painting and image, a transitional space where the short circuit among colour and brushstroke generates an emotional tension between sensitivity and concept, object and vision. Since the 1990s, Luigi Carboni has focused on painting, exploring its aesthetic dimension through a more cultured and refined lens. He initially developed a 'tactile' approach centred on the surface, later evolving and directing his research towards a new sense of depth. The signature feature of Carboni's latest cycle of works, which began in 2019, lies in the redefinition of drawing, of sketching: a technique often regarded as secondary, but which now takes centre stage. The large oil and acrylic canvases, showcased in the exhibition, are displayed alongside one another, allowing the dominant black brushstrokes and serpentine lines to emerge, gradually transformed directly onto the surface of the canvas, conjuring up figures and bodies. ***The body is an instrument of seduction; the body generates power because it lies at the centre of our fantasies***, the artist says. Carboni favours change, deformation and everything on the fringes of pre-established categories. Shape is constantly challenged at the very moment of its revelation, in an attempt to fix something that fails each time.

***Ridisegnare (Redesigning)*** is the overarching definition of the entire cycle of works, within which the brushstroke could continue indefinitely and the line become indissoluble, perpetuating its continuous negation while simultaneously affirming the shape. The result is a vertiginous and fascinating abundance in ever deeper and increasingly abstract swirls in which painting is skilfully modelled around the relationship between canvas, brushstroke and colour. Marks, doodles, squiggles and sophisticated concentric patterns merge into a single system that verges on a kind of cryptic handwriting, a linguistic code created by Carboni where concept and ornament are inextricably linked by a hidden rhythm dictated by the artist's sensitivity.

Hands play a fundamental role in these paintings. They are hands that are true to life but endowed with their own expressive autonomy, the distinctive elements of the figure: hands that are awakened, animated by passion, by violence, and sometimes drained of their vital energy.

Luigi Carboni's art eludes definition, inhabiting a place of complexity, resisting linear progression. It dispenses with hierarchies and genres, and instead embraces an

amalgamation. His work explores the present through a continuous dialogue with the past, focusing on an art history based solely on intensity. The artist skilfully walks a fine line like a tightrope walker, opening up a new representation of the body through gestures that are both forceful and penetrating, laying bare the mechanisms of desire until the very image of painting itself trembles with pleasure.

Carboni showcases a series of ceramic sculptures alongside his paintings in this exhibition, arranged on lacquered, monochrome or two-colour pedestals: third- and fourth-firing glazed heads, brightly coloured nude objects, metal surfaces with luminous and iridescent reflections. Works in which a skilfully controlled deformity occurs, while the shape is partly deconstructed through folds, loops and cuts. As these heads showcase the possibility of reality, lifelike perception shifts into an abstract experience, poised between decorative style and intimate expression, where erotic visual pleasure can, at any moment, turn into abuse.

Luigi Carboni's language verges on an oxymoron where beauty consists of elements in constant conflict with each other, a fraught coexistence marked by uncertainty and contradiction, much like the times we currently live in.

**On Thursday 15 May from 6 pm to 9 pm, Scaramouche invites you to the official opening of Luigi Carboni. *Redesigning life, leaving words behind*, featuring a presentation by Marco Bazzini.**

**Luigi Carboni** was born in Pesaro where he lives and works. He is the senior professor of Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Urbino. He has exhibited his works over the years in major art galleries and museums.

Main solo exhibitions: **Studio La Città**, Verona; **Otto Gallery**, Bologna; **Jack Shainman Gallery**, New York; **Galleria G7**, Bologna; **Lumen Travo Gallery**, Amsterdam; **Patricia Faure Gallery**, Santa Monica, Los Angeles; **Studio Barnabò**, Venice; **Giò Marconi**, Milan; **L'ARCA, Laboratorio per le Arti Contemporanee**, Teramo; **Franca Mancini**, Pesaro; **Studio Marconi**, Milano; **Alberto Weber**, Turin; **Studio Scalise**, Naples. In 2006, a solo exhibition of his work was held in the rooms of the **Castellare of the Palazzo Ducale in Urbino** and a book edited by Skira was published to mark the occasion. The exhibition at the **Centro Arti Visive Peschiera** in Pesaro followed in 2009 and, in 2010, *MACROwall: Eighties are Back* at the **MACRO, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea in Rome**; in 2016, at the **MAC, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea** in Lissone; in 2018, at the Fondazione **ZUECCA PROJECT SPACE**, Giudecca, Venice and at the **Fondazione 107**, Turin.

Luigi Carboni has also participated in numerous collective exhibitions and art shows in museums and foundations including: *Geometrie dionisiache*, **Rotonda della Besana**, Milan; *Arte italiana*, **Museo d'Arte di Taiwan**, Taiwan; *Arte giovane*, **PAC, Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea**, Milan; *Now in Italy*, **Kodama Gallery**, Osaka; *Cadencias, figure dell'arte italiana degli anni '90*, **Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Sofia Imber**, Caracas and **Museo d'Arte Contemporanea**, Bogotá; *Il teatro dell'arte*, **Galleria d'Arte Moderna**, Cesena; *Italia-*

*America L'astrazione ridefinita*, Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, San Marino; *Mistero e mito, momenti della pittura italiana 1930-1960-1990*, Fukuyama Museum of Art, Chiba Prefectural Museum of Art, Kochi Museum of Art, Iida City Museum (touring exhibition in Japan); *L'astrazione*, Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Gallarate; *Ultime generazioni – XII Quadriennale*, Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome; *Exelixis*, Fondazione Melina Mercuri, Athens; *Die Andere Richtung der Kunst*, Dumont Kunsthalle, Cologne; *Arte italiana: ultimi 40 anni*, Galleria d'Arte Moderna, MAMbo, Bologna; *Generazione astratta*, Fondazione Bandera, Varese; *Cross-Roads, Arte contemporanea della collezione Tonelli*, Polo Museale Internazionale Castello Colonna, Genazzano; *Materia d'arte, opere della collezione della GAM*, Galleria d'Arte Moderna, MAMbo Bologna; *Assenze / presenze, una nuova generazione di artisti italiani*, Centro culturale francese Le Botanique, Brussels; *Acquisizioni, Fondazione per l'arte del '900*, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Bologna, Palazzo Saraceni, Bologna; *L'opera al nero*, Mole Vanvitelliana, Ancona; *Voi (non) siete qui*, Magazzini del Sale, Siena; *Generazione Astratta*, Galleria d'Arte Moderna Le Ciminiere, Catania; *Not so private*, Galleria d'Arte Moderna Villa delle Rose, Bologna; *15x15*, Forte Belvedere, Florence; *Plenitudini*, Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, San Marino; *The Gentlemen of Verona*, Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Palazzo Forti, Verona; *The Memory of White*, Leonard Hutton Galleries; *Incontri-Zeitgenossische Italienische Kunst*, The Schaufler Foundation, SCHAUWERK, Sindelfingen, Germany; *Bianco Italia*, Tornabuoni Arte, Florence; *Au rendez-vous des amis, Convegno-esposizione Internazionale*, Fondazione Burri, Palazzo Vitelli a Sant'Egidio, Città di Castello; *Leidenschaft passion*, Museum Art.Plus, Donaueschingen, Germany; *Nuovi incontri*, Museo Revoltella, Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Trieste; *La torre di Babele*, Ex-officine Lucchesi, Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato; *Leidenschaft passion*, Museum Art.Plus, Donaueschingen, Germany; *Incontro a Palazzo*, Galleria Nazionale delle Marche, Palazzo Ducale, Urbino with Paolo Icaro, Eliseo Mattiacci and Giovanni Termini.



SCARAMOUCHE

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Wednesday-Saturday: 3-9pm

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