

Under the patronage of the

Municipality of Pavia

**SANTA MARIA GUALTIERI**

Piazza della Vittoria, 4 – Pavia

**Giovanna Fra – Antipodi/Antipodes**

curated by Susanna Zatti

**from March 3 to 31, 2024**

opening on Saturday, March 2, at 6:00 p.m.

speakers

Susanna Zatti, curator

Luca Beatrice, art critic

Giovanna Fra, artist

with musical performance by Andy (Bluvertigo)

press release, 03/7/2024

Featuring a repertoire of **30 works** with changing hues, characterized by a fusion of techniques and fervent experimentation, the exhibition "Giovanna Fra – Antipodi/Antipodes" opens on **Saturday**, **March 2**, at the deconsecrated **Church of Santa Maria Gualtieri** in **Pavia**. The exhibition involves the curator Susanna Zatti, art critic Luca Beatrice, and the artist. The event is accompanied by a musical performance by Andy (Bluvertigo), paying homage to David Bowie, who has always inspired Giovanna Fra's artistic work. The solo exhibition, open until March 31, is **sponsored** by the **Municipality of Pavia**.

The title "Antipodi/Antipodes ", chosen by the artist, refers directly to the technique of her showcased creations, predominantly realized between 2023 and 2024, which blend **painting and digital art** two seemingly disparate languages. Icons, sections of paintings, fragments of images are manipulated, enlarged, dissected, reworked, and given new life. Alongside the past and memory emerges an intense and painterly present expressing a load of completely new and impactful emotions. Informal painting, rich in signs, quick and instinctive gestures, abstract elements, merges with digital support structures, creating a perfect union dictated by the contamination of techniques. Commenting on this, curator Susanna Zatti says, "The painter doesn't decide beforehand, in front of the easel or the PC screen, where and how her narrative will unfold, where her imagination will lead: she perfectly knows the tools of her trade, both traditional and those recently made available by technology. She uses vocabulary, grammar, and syntax to control and at the same time make her language more explicit, to prevent it from becoming confusing and polluted, but lets emotion burst forth and guide her hand, spreading on the support without overflowing, also eagerly awaiting the completion of the composition."

The series on display - Pixel (2023/2024), Dream (2024), Texture (2023/2024), and Hashtag (2020/2023) - reveal the profound harmony between painting and photography, between the real and virtual worlds, between dimensions that are diametrically opposed, yet to which Giovanna Fra offers the possibility of traveling together. Luca Beatrice, in his critical text, speaks directly to this relationship, affirming, "Her work is proof of how painting has benefited from technology, evidence that these universes are not in conflict at all but have decided to converse to investigate parallel and mysterious realities."

A multi-level dialogue that also ties into the exhibition venue—a place with a simple and essential appearance where Giovanna Fra's works fit perfectly and an environment suitable for embracing the sounds, just like the artist's works, always connected to music and especially to that of Satie, Cage, and Bowie.

Alongside the works, a looped video titled "Timelapse" presents, through a series of rapidly scrolling images, the evolution of the artist's work over the past few years.

The exhibition is accompanied by an art publication featuring texts by curator Susanna Zatti and art critic Luca Beatrice, alongside a rich selection of images.

**Biographical notes**:

Giovanna Fra was born in Pavia, she graduated in painting from the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera with a thesis on John Cage and the relationship between art and music in the 20th century, while also studying conservative restoration between Milan and Venice. She exhibited for the first time in 1991 at the historic Bar Jamaica in Brera, Milan. Her creative vision has privileged the dynamic physicality of color in relation to the different consistencies of matter, capturing moments of suspension and rarefaction in the immediacy of the gesture. With Ipergrafie (2014) and subsequently Texture (2016), a new technical experimentation began. Digital photography and painting evolved into a new path. She has exhibited in numerous public and private venues with solo and group exhibitions. Notable exhibitions include the solo exhibition "Sonorous Landscapes" at Galleria Rotta Farinelli in Genoa in 2016 with a catalog (Skira ed.) curated by Luca Beatrice and Vittorio Sgarbi; in 2018 "Tempus-Time" at the Reggia di Caserta, accompanied by a catalog curated by Luca Beatrice (Skira ed.); in 2019, participation in the 58th Venice Biennale (San Marino Republic Pavilion) at Palazzo Bollani, where she set up a solo exhibition titled "Timelapse" curated by Vincenzo Sanfo. In 2023, on the occasion of the reopening of the Horti Borromaici in Pavia, a large wall work by her was installed in the ExtraArt space, where it will remain permanently. She lives and works in Pavia.

**Exhibition details**

**Title** Giovanna Fra – Antipodi/Antipodes

**Curated by** Susanna Zatti

**Venue** Santa Maria Gualtieri, Piazza Della Vittoria 4 - Pavia

**Dates** March 3 – 31, 2024

**Opening** Saturday, March 2, at 6:00 p.m.

**Hours** Every day from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – closed on Mondays

**Free admission**

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Texts and images downloadable from [www.irmabianchi.it](https://www.irmabianchi.it/mostra/giovanna-fra-antipodi)