

“La gloria di una giornata qualunque” (The Glory of Any Day Whatsoever), the title of a show by Letizia Fornasieri held in Mantua in 2009, is the best declaration of the poetics underpinning the art of Letizia Fornasieri.

Her work is dedicated to finding, contemplating, and recounting the beauty and poetry of the small things that are close to us but which only rarely do we stop to look at, enraptured as we are by the big things that often are the senseless perpetual engine of our existence.

The world enclosed in a leaf, in a blade of grass, in a small stream of water tells us more about our life, our being in the world, than the things that, often wrongly, we believe merit our full attention.

It is this intimate, snug world, one that whispers and does not shout, gentle and not arrogant, full of silences that speak to our heart and mind, a world in which knowing how to listen is far more valuable than too many empty words, that Letizia recounts in her works.

The world’s marvels can be met with everywhere, even in a humble ditch in the Po valley, because so much life exists in it: hornworts, water buttercups, starwort, pondweeds, and then white willows, alders, oaks, black poplars, elms, dogwood, willows, elders, spindle trees and then molluscs, insects, crustaceans, worms, frogs and then given we are at the Acquario in Milan, the fish: gobies, perch, rockling, minnows, loach, chub, trout, bleaks ...

In our historic Acquario, that reconstructs aquatic worlds from mountains to the sea, there is, furthermore, installed a special section devoted to the artificial environments of springs and ditches, and so visitors are proposed the interesting experience of seeing the works by Letizia and, immediately after (or before, according to your preference) of the water tanks devoted to the ditches and springs. It is in this dialogue between artistic experience and scientific experience that there is to be found the added value of this exhibition. How many of us, for example, have been to Giverny to see the water lilies and Japanese bridge that Monet reproduced in his famous works?

We are pleased that Letizia Fornasieri, an artist of great significance on the world of contemporary Italian art, has completely understood the spirit with which we create our temporary shows at the Acquario and has accepted to bring her poetic vein into this old and splendid cultural institution.

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