

#onlineart #meettheartist

**FILIPPO ARMELLIN
MEETS
ANGELA MADESANI**

For the third appointment of the initiative **"Meet the Artist"**, Galleria Fumagalli shares a compelling exchange between art critic Angela Madesani and artist Filippo Armellin about the possibility of continuing to create art in times of crisis like this.

The occasion to stop has provided to the artist inspiration for the **new body of works *Chiusure*** [Closures], a project that bears an evocative title and, on the other hand, is imbued by the unrestrained desire to get lost in infinite spaces, and to dive into limitless oceans.



Filippo Armellin in his studio, 2020. Courtesy the artist

Angela Madesani: «In a phone call a few days ago, you told me that during the lockdown you worked a lot, closed in your studio. You showed me the first piece of a new research, which, without revealing too much, it seems very interesting to me. Let's start from its title, *Chiusure* [Closures], which recalls the exceptional moment we are living. The closure was imposed on us due to the unexpected health crisis which was also an extraordinary occasion to take some time and reflect.»

Filippo Armellin: «The title spontaneously arose to give further value to the project. I was reflecting on this new body of works that brings a message of openness and airiness, and it seemed functional to me to contradict this meaning so as to add strength to the work.»

A.M.: «These works are consistent with what you have done previously. However, they present innovations...»

F.A.: «Yes, they do. First of all, I think it is necessary to delve deeper, both from a technical and aesthetic point of view. For this reason, I try to pursue the same process and to test its limits. In 2012 I had already photographed the first "set up" ocean. Then I realised that I could further improve the outcome by taking advantage of the experience I have had in recent years. Furthermore, I thought that the subject perfectly suits the current situation.»

A.M.: «A work born in an exceptional moment of our lives.»

F.A.: «It has been two long months that have tested me, and which have been very tiring but also worthwhile. I have tried to do everything possible not to make the moment useless, and to put effort in what I could achieve. I found myself shut into my studio for much longer than I was used to and it took a lot of effort in the beginning. I love my job, which, as you know, takes place mainly indoors, but I also have to stay in daily contact with the outside, with nature and movement: my health depends on it. So it wasn't easy. Sometimes I felt distressed by what the media would tell. The sole solution was therefore to try to concentrate and to create. I asked myself: what am I missing most right now? What is truly vital and necessary?»

A.M.: «And what was the answer you gave yourself?»

F.A.: «In recent months many of us have been able to observe how nature has come out giving us surprising signals, which have been unheeded so far. But I guess I am a pessimist. Perhaps I would say that this project can symbolically represent the awareness – even shared by all of us – that our being in the world is no longer sustainable in these terms. The work *Chiusure* evokes the end of a world. I think that what is missing most is, indeed, the harmony with the natural environment. Unfortunately, technology has violently revolutionised our living and cities have become environments that significantly influence the health and psyche of those who live in. It may be time for these systems to turn into something more close to what we call life. In this "closure" phase we are required to think and understand that it is no time to find new technology solutions, but to take a few steps back.»



Filippo Armellin, *Chiusura (2)*, 2020, print on photographic paper, 90x70 cm. Courtesy the artist

To learn more about the artist → [Filippo Armellin](#)

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