

Non perdere il sentiero per via degli alberi *Do not lose the path because of the trees*

The first installment of the project LOFT – Light On Future Topics by Galleria Fumagalli opens with a group investigation on the contemporary, which takes the form of a garden by Hisayuki Amae, Luca Boffi, Clara Cebrián, Luigi Pensa, and Costanza Starrabba

Curated by Maria Vittoria Baravelli
From an idea by Annamaria Maggi and Massimo Zanello

13 September – 13 October, 2023
Galleria Fumagalli, Milano

Galleria Fumagalli presents the **first exhibition project by LOFT – Light On Future Topics**, a new area of the gallery's operations, aimed at exploring the contemporary universe in all its creative aspects.

The group exhibition *Don't lose the path because of the trees*, curated by Maria Vittoria Baravelli, sheds light on the work of five artists, whose poetics and productions intertwine in a never-before-seen presentation: **Hisayuki Amae** (Kanagawa, Japan, 1974), **Luca Boffi** (Milan, Italy, 1991), **Clara Cebrián** (Madrid, Spain, 1991), **Luigi Pensa** (Turin, Italy, 2001), and **Costanza Starrabba** (Ancona, Italy, 1995).

The exhibition project features the works of the five artists, each invited to present their own approaches and to challenge the limits of their research by interacting with the others. **At the core of the exhibition there is the idea of the garden**, a recurrent theme in the history of art which, in *Don't lose the path because of the trees*, becomes a **metaphor for a space for experimentation and interaction**. There, they can nurture their own diversity and coexist within the same story.

Maria Vittoria Baravelli curator of the exhibition, states: "*The works are stories that intertwine like roots nourished by the fertile ground of talent. They stand out like branches of a tree that rise up ever higher. As in a fluid, hyperconnected and overheated world, not to liquify might be the first step to be still something.*"

Hisayuki Amae's works, which combine an in-depth study of form with the most recent design research, interplay with the result of the investigation on the rural landscape experienced and inhabited by **Luca Boffi**; **Clara Cebrián's** pictorial and ceramic work, inspired by everyday life and characterized by a unique blend of figurative details, words and phrases, interact with **Luigi Pensa's** creations that mix contemporary design with traditional craft techniques; lastly, the figures in digital painting by **Costanza Starrabba** show the imagery of a childish universe with bright tones and exaggerated volumes.

The result is a **combined presentation where personal narratives, experiences and aesthetic reflections intertwine** and enrich each other, in an original combination of colors, techniques and creative dimensions.

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Information

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Via Bonaventura Cavalieri 6 - 20121 Milano

Monday-Friday, h 1-7 pm

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LOFT – Light On Future Topics

Since 2023, LOFT – Light On Future Topics is the new area of the gallery's operations, aimed at focusing on the exploration of the contemporary universe in all its creative aspects. Starting from the belief that sharing knowledge and the arts is the first step towards creating new future horizons, LOFT invites a selection of artists and creatives to present new and multidisciplinary cultural proposals. They range from visual art to photography and architecture, from video to performative art, from cinema to fashion and design, creating an environment for exchange and discussion. The research and selection of the protagonists of LOFT is entrusted to a committee of key figures coming from various creative fields: the curator and art sharer Maria Vittoria Baravelli, the style director of Sanlorenzo and theatre critic Sergio Buttiglieri, the fashion consultant and brand strategist Massimo Monteforte and film director Marco Pozzi accompany Annamaria Maggi and Massimo Zanello to conceive a program aimed at sharing knowledge.

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The artists

Hisayuki Amae was born in Kanagawa, Japan, in 1974. He spent his childhood between Tehran and London. He studied art at the École Des Beaux Arts De Nantes, at the Institut des Hautes Études en Arts Plastiques in Paris, and at the Sandberg Institut in Amsterdam. After his studies, he spent several years in Damascus where he met Sergio Calatroni and Miyuki Yajima of S.C. Artroom, a Milan-based studio of architects and designers, where he has been working since 2001 as a Visual Designer. His works have been included in some important exhibitions such as Atelièr 94, Musée de l'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; Niet de Kunstvlaai, Amsterdam; De Appel, Amsterdam.

Luca Boffi (Alberonero) was born in Milan in 1991, grew up in the area of Pianura Padana close to Lodi, works as an artist and farmer. He studies visual perception, landscape transformations, processes of transition and reciprocity between living beings, between the natural and the artificial. He interprets his surroundings in order to restore them from the posture and gesture of his own practice. In 2013, he graduated in Interior Design at the Politecnico di Milano. He embarked on an artistic journey in which the community and social dimensions are central, creating works mainly in public spaces. He is the winner of the Italian Council (11th edition) with the publishing project "Caro Campo. Diario di lavoro"; which stems from the human, artistic and environmental experience lived by the artist from December 2019 to April 2021 in Campogalliano (Modena, Italy) in symbiosis with a field of two hundred and ninety poplars until they were cut down. Luca Boffi has exhibited and collaborated with realities and institutions including: Santa Paula Art Museum, CA, USA; Domaine de Boisbuchet, Lessac; Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Rome; Triennale di Milano. He has worked in several European capitals and in Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Estonia, Indonesia, Lebanon, Mexico, USA and other countries worldwide.

Clara Cebrián was born in Madrid in 1991, lives between Syracuse, the Spanish capital and Mexico City. At the age of 19 she moved to London where she studied Interactive Design and Moving Image at the London College of Communications. In those years she exhibited in various group shows in Madrid and London; she has collaborated with platforms such as TEDx (UK) and magazines such as Scrag End (Australia), Alba (UK) and the design studio MERRY + VALENZUELA (USA). She was also a finalist in the competition Santander Talents Video of Santander Bank when her animation was shown on TVE. Back in Madrid, she collaborated with MATADERO within the project Cultural Factory, where she lived for three months. Her pictorial works, as those in ceramics, are characterized by a particular abstraction capable of reflecting a creative universe inspired by everyday life, figurative details mixed with words and phrases, which are about memories, fleeting emotions and the reality of her studio. Clara Cebrián aims to show her ideas through deliberately simple procedures that shed light on everyday concepts and objects. She has been selected for the Swatch Creative Natives programs in Madrid (2018), Proyectote Residence in Mexico City (2018), Hotel el Ganzo Artist Residence in San José del Cabo (2020), Casa Balandra Residence in Mallorca (2021).

Luigi Pensa (<https://luigipensa.com/>) was born in Turin in 2001, lives and works in Milan. He studied Product Design at the Central Saint Martins-University of The Arts in London. Influenced by conceptual art, his work ranges from design products to ceramic sculpture, fashion and industrial design. Luigi Pensa is interested in collaborating with artisans and workshops, experimenting with traditional media and techniques such as glass blowing,

furniture design and ceramic manufacturing. His oeuvre combines specific production techniques in order to give life to new creative results. His most recent projects include a fashion line in which he uses vintage clothing as basis for silk-screen printing of cultural and religious symbols, giving the individual garments a new purpose and meaning. The silk-screen printing also allows to merge the “handmade” and the digital, the ancient and the contemporary, art and design, not only in the field of fashion but also in that of design, conceiving furniture and unique objects.

Costanza Starrabba was born in Ancona in 1995 and grew up in its surroundings, in Offagna. She moved to Rome to study illustration at the IED Institute. She currently lives and works in Milan. Her practice manifests through drawing as a pure representation of the inner universe. Accustomed to visiting museums from an early age and expressing herself through paper and colors, she was inspired by illustrators such as Austin Lee and Bráulio Amado, but also by the movement Der Blaue Reiter. She conceives disturbing yet very colorful figures – as if the color were going to lighten the atmosphere – creating imaginary of a childish universe for adults where characters and environments collide with accentuated colors, swollen surfaces and exaggerated volumes. Deeply influenced by Piero della Francesca’s human and landscape representation, she adopts absolute, unreal skies as backgrounds, inhabited by deformed and rounded bodies – often female. Her technique is digital glaze painting: starting from experiments with acrylic, she transposes the pictorial technique into digital with the aim of combining an analog technique with the digital medium and the airbrush style. In 2021 she was selected by Off-White™ for the first Italian event of an international project dedicated to female creativity. She created a large wall painting inspired by the brand’s Burrow Bag, at the Colonne di San Lorenzo in Milan.