



STUDIO
LA CITTA'

Lucas Reiner

A Requiem in Progress

24 June - 16 September 2023



Lucas Reiner
Grey on Yellow, 2023



Lucas Reiner
Black on Grey, 2023



Lucas Reiner
White over Red, 2023

On June 24th, Studio la Città will present, in one of the exhibition rooms, Lucas Reiner's solo show, *A Requiem in Progress*.

The American artist has already shown in the gallery's group show *Today I would like to be a Tree* in 2021 as, since 2001, his work is focused on the representation of trees, special entities that have captured Reiner's attention for their resilience to pressures within urban territories. Their capacity to resist, to be stronger and more vital than adversities, to narrate the complex relationship between man and nature.

A Requiem in Progress is a cycle of work inspired by the loss of a dear friend in 2019: the artist Lawrence Carroll. Reiner so speaks about the beginning of this cycle of work: «Over the years in many letters, the artist Lawrence Carroll and wife Lucy Carroll sent me photographs of trees from around the world. Several of these images became the starting point for the paintings in this exhibition as well as the texts of the Apocalypse and Verdi's requiem, to become a meditation on loss and the persistence of beauty ». These small works made of tempera, wax and muslin on wood have been created in honour of friendship, Lawrence Carroll's artistic excellency and his guidance in art education.

Reiner is searching for what is beyond the sight: «In painting on a surface, I sometimes feel I am asking the same questions the cave painters might have asked, namely: "what is on the other side of the wall?" In trying to see beyond our world to catch a glimpse of something infinite, painting offers something no other form can».

Many artists paint the same subject during a lifetime, Reiner has been painting trees for 23 years because the subject is so versatile and it can express an infinite variety of sensations, both ancient and contemporary as well as holding the weight of the universal quest to discern the deepest mysteries of life.

Biography.

Lucas Reiner was born in 1960 in Los Angeles. He attended the Parsons School of Design and The New School for Social Research in New York, then the Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles, and the Parsons School of Design in Paris. Lucas Reiner has widely exhibited internationally and his work is represented in public and private collections, including the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA); the Santa Barbara Museum of Art; the West Collection (Oaks, USA); Staatlichen Graphischen Sammlung (Munich); the Diözesan Museum (Freising); Colección Jumex (Mexico City); and the American Embassy Collection (Riga).

Over the course of three decades, he has produced several notable series of chromatically variegated paintings reflecting the artist's perennial inspirations (contemporary urban trees, pyrotechnic explosions, traditional spiritual themes) and worked in a range of media (including oil, acrylic, tempera, watercolor, drypoint etching, monoprints, and photography).

In early 2019, Reiner exhibited several recent large-scale paintings (in conjunction with sculptures by Johannes Esper) at Galerie Nordenhake in Berlin, Germany. A solo exhibition of Reiner's paintings titled "Himmelsleiter" was presented by Galerie Biedermann in Munich, Germany, in 2017. His work was also included in the 2018 exhibition titled "Dos Colectivos" presented by the University of California's Fisher Museum of Art (Los Angeles), Instituto de Artes Gráficas (Oaxaca) and Nacional de la Estampa, Mexico City. A monograph of Reiner's work titled Los Angeles Trees was published by Prestal in 2008 (with essays by curator Petra Giloy Hirtz and writer/activist Fred Dewey), featuring work produced over several years that examines the formal collision between organic growth and the harsh strictures of contemporary urban life embodied by the trees lining city streets. Selected by The Los Angeles Times as one of its "Favorite Books of 2008".

Originally initiated by an invitation to produce a Stations of the Cross for St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., in the wake of his mother's death in 2008, Reiner embarked upon a series of watercolor studies, subsequently working with the German master printer Clemens Bütig Editionen to produce a limited edition of etchings. In the course of seven years, this body of work (which has become known as The Stations Project) culminated in fifteen large-scale paintings evoking the timeless path of transformation through contemplative visual space. Transcending religious affiliation, these works engage the profound capacity of art to embody the universal human longing to comprehend suffering, loss, and the passage of time.

He has been invited to serve as visiting artist at numerous institutions, including Art Center College of Design (Pasadena), Oberlin College (Cleveland), the American Academy (Rome), Università Iuav (Venice), and Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa (Venice), among many others.

He lives and works between Los Angeles and Berlin.

LUCAS REINER

A Requiem in progress

Exhibition Period

24 June - 16 September 2023

Opening: Saturday, 24 June 2023, 11AM

Location

Studio la Città, Lungadige Galtarossa 21, 37133 Verona

Opening Hours:

Monday 2PM - 6 PM from Tuesday to Friday 9 AM - 1 PM and 2PM- 6 PM

Saturday 9 AM - 1 PM (by appointment before Thursday)

For more information and images contact:

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