

MANFREDI BENINATI

Born in Palermo, Italy, 1970. Lives and works in Palermo.

After his High Levels in Classic studies, he entered at the Palermo University at the Faculty of Law , following his parents footprints. In 1990 he started film courses at the “Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia” of Rome. He worked as an assistant director for important Italian movie directors as Tornatore and Damiani. In those years he divided his time between Great Britain, Spain and starting from 1992 he moved to London working as an artist in several studios - squats of the East End.

In 2002 he moved to Rome. In 2006, returning from a long stay in Buenos Aires he moved back to his native town, Palermo. His work has been shown in a number of countries in Europe and America and is included in many prestigious public collections. In 2005 he was selected to represent his country at the Venice Biennale where he was awarded the audience prize for the italian pavilion.

In 2006 he received a prize from the American Academy in Rome.

Manfredi Beninati’s work explores the theme of life’s journey. He does this using the pictures of children and of adolescents at the edge of a forest, on a pathway, on a road, on a bicycle, by the sea. These images unlock in the mind of the viewer memories of the anxieties as well as the securities of childhood and the struggle of moving towards in life. Often Beninati’s works have strong literary and artistic references. Sometimes the artist uses images of boats, horses, cycles and other means of transport as metaphors, again, of the journey of life. In a number of his works a mother and a child image seems to refer to both the “time honoured” tradition of “Madonna and Bambino” as well as provoking a more modern and psychological interpretation of the genesis of life.

Beninati’s skills as a painter and draftsman are highly developed and, in combination with his cinematic eye, produce paintings of surprising emotional content.

Lorcan O’Neill



Flavio e Palermo, 2004, 250x300 cm
pencil+gesso on paper on board

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2009

"Rearranging The Landscapes Around", Tomio Koyama Gallery, Kyoto, Japan

2008

"La Natura Morta", Max Wigram Gallery, London, U.K.

2007

"La lettera "f"", American Academy in Rome, Rome, Italy

"Flavio and Palermo (in the summer)", James Cohan Gallery, New York, U.S.A.

"A Flavio", Museo Laboratorio, Città Sant'Angelo (PE), Italy

2006

"Manfredi Beninati", Galeria Braga Menendez, Buenos Aires, Argentina

2005

"Drawing cabinet", FPAC, Palermo, Italy

"Rescued pictures", Galleria Lorcan O'Neill, Rome, Italy

"New Paintings", James Cohan Gallery, New York, U.S.A.

2003

"Manfredi Beninati", Galleria Lorcan O'Neill, Rome, Italy

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

2008

"Made Up", Liverpool Biennial 2008, Liverpool, U.K

"Imaginary Realities. Constructed Worlds...", Max Wigram Gallery, London, UK

"Dream Therapy", Kathleen Cullen Fine Arts, New York, U.S.A.

"Sand: Memory, Meaning and Metaphor", Parrish Museum, Southampton (NY), U.S.A.

"Quadriennale di Roma", Palazzo delle esposizioni, Rome, Italy

"Mediterranean contemporary art", Perna Foundation, Capri, Italy

"Passed as present", York Art Gallery, York, U.K.

"Premio Cairo", Palazzo della Permanente, Milano, Italy

2007

- "Summer Show", James Cohan Gallery, New York, U.S.A.

- "Arte italiana 1968-2007. Pittura", Palazzo Reale, Milan, Italy

- "The end begins", The Hospital, London, U.K.

- "Detour", The Art Directors Club, New York, U.S.A.

- "Open Studios", American Academy in Rome, Rome, Italy

2006

- "Negotiating reality", Victoria H. Myhren Gallery, University of Denver, Denver, U.S.A.

- "C'era una volta un re...", Arcos Museo, Benevento, Italy

- "Figuring the landscape", Contemporary Art Galleries, Storrs (Ct), U.S.A.

2005

- "12 painters", Galleria In Arco, AB+, Turin, Italy

- Padiglione Venezia at Giardini, Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

2004

- "Between the lines", James Cohan Gallery, New York, U.S.A.

- "Expander", Royal Academy of Arts, London, U.K.

- "Summer show", Galleria Lorcan O'Neill, Rome, Italy

- "Wall Paper", GAMEC, Bergamo, Italy

2003

- "Dirty pictures", The Approach Gallery, London, U.K.

- "Quadriennale di Roma-Anteprima", Palazzo Reale, Naples, Italy

- "Roma 2003", Galleria Pack, Milan, Italy

- "Le collezioni – Recenti acquisizioni", MAXXI – Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI Secolo, Rome, Italy

2002

- "Www.plot@rt", Rome, Italy

PRIZES

2006

Rome Prize , American Academy in Rome

2005

Premio Darc per la giovane arte italiana/ Darc Prize for young Italian art

Premio del pubblico - padiglione italiano - 51 biennale di Venezia /

Audience award – Italian pavilion, 51 Venice biennale

SPECIAL PROJECTS

"Biennial Triangles" (film project with BigHouseArts, and artist Tristan Brady-Jacobs),
Liverpool Prison, Liverpool, UK

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Richard Cork, "*Liverpool unleashed*", Financial Times, 11 October 2008

Christopher Brown, "To Think Of Something peers into another world", Metro London, 28 September 2008

Rachel Campbell-Johnston, "Biennial at Liverpool", The Times, 22 September 2008

Richard Dorment, "Liverpool Biennial: 'Made Up'", The Daily Telegraph, 22 September 2008

David Smith, "It's a long way from inacey-wincey", The Observer, 21 September 2008

Alfred Hickling, "Liverpool Biennial: a guide to avoid going round in circles", The Guardian, September 2008

Michael Glover, "Magical mystery tour: The Liverpool art biennial", The Independent, 20 September 2008

Sorcha Carey, "Manfredi Beninati", Liverpool Biennial Catalog, September 2008

Natalie Liechti, "Manfredi Beninati: La Natura Morta", Flavorpill, September 2008

Jennifer Landes, "So Many Grains of Meaning at the Parrish", The East Hampton Star, 12 August 2008

Emily Verla Bovino, "15th Quadriennale of Rome", Artforum, August 2008

Lea Mattarella, "La carica dei cento alla Quadriennale", La Stampa, 7 July 2008

Gabrielle Selz, "Shifting Sands", Newsday, July 2008

M.M., "15ª quadriennale d'arte di Roma, giovane e partecipativa. Mi è piaciuta", Artsblog, 20 June 2008

Lorenzo Canova, "Manfredi Beninati", XV Quadriennale, Catalog, June 2008

Nicholas Cullinan, "Artists Dictionary - Focus Italy: Manfredi Beninati", Flash Art, 2008

Tom Morton, "Imaginary Realities...", Catalogue, Feb. 2008

Alicia Longwell and Dorothy Cullman, "Sand: Memory, Meaning and Metaphor", Catalogue, June 2008

Manuela Annibaldi, "Mediterranean Contemporary", Catalogue, 2008

Lisa Spagnesi, "Manfredi Beninati", Arte (Giorgio Mondadori), 2008

Andrea Ruggieri, "Manfredi Beninati. Da Palermo a New York a Roma, un ritratto possibile di un artista eclettico",
in Balarm, Oct/Nov 2007

Laura Barreca, "Manfredi Beninati: the painter of dreamland" in NYarts, Sept/October 2007

Gianluca Marziani, "The eden of memories", in Numèro Beautè, July/August 2007

Julie Cirelli, "Manfredi Beninati", in Tema Celeste, July/August 2007

Mary Hrbacek, "Manfredi Beninati: Flavio and Palermo", in NYarts, May/June 2007

E. S., "Parallel Worlds", in Domus, May 2007

Franco Speroni, "Manfredi Beninati, Giuseppe Stampone", in Extrart, April 2007

"Goings On About Town: Manfredi Beninati", in The New Yorker, 13 March 2007

Roberta Smith, "Manfredi Beninati", in The New York, March, March 2007

R. C. Baker, "Best in show: Manfredi Beninati", in The Village Voice, February 2007

Norma Mangione, "Interviews with Manfredi Beninati" in UOVO #13, March 2007

C'era una volta un re... - Manfredi Beninati, exhibition catalogue, Oct. 2006

Susanna Bianchini, *Arcos: C'era una volta un re...*, in Teknemedi, Ottobre 2006

C'era una volta un re... - Manfredi Beninati, exhibition catalogue, October 2006

Matthew J. Westerby, "Negotiating Reality", Exhibition catalog, September 2006
 Figuring the landscape at Contemporary Art Galleries, in ArtDaily, Sept. 2006
 Lisa Paul Streitfeld, Landscape with a difference – A mesmerizing, surprising exhibition by eight artists at Uconn Galleries, in Art Review, sept. 2006
 Francesco Stocchi, Manfredi Beninati, in Flash Art n.259, Aug/Sept. 2006
 Nicholas Cullinan, Manfredi Beninati, in Contemporary Annual 2006
 Tobias Verlende, La Biennale, in NY Arts, Jan/Feb 2006
 Jonathan Turner, Reviews: Manfredi Beninati, in ARTnews n.10, Nov. 2005
 Nicholas Cullinan, Manfredi Beninati, in Tema Celeste n.112, Nov/Dec. 2005
 Francesco Stocchi, Manfredi Beninati, in Art Forum, Sept. 2005
 Laura Barreca, in Arte e Critica n.43, Jul/Aug 2005
 Elena del Drago, L'arte penetra nell'emozione domestica, in Il Manifesto, 28 Aug. 2005
 Marcello Smarrelli, Reviews: Manfredi Beninati, in Flash Art, Jul/Aug 2005
 Javier Hotoria, Las naciones del arte. 51 bienal de Venecia: Pabellones, in El Mundo (El cultural), 16-22 June 2005
 Pier Paolo Pancotto, La memoria sottotraccia nelle sculture di Beninati, in L'Unità, 3 June 2005
 Silvia Pegoraro, I misteri fiabeschi di Manfredi Beninati, in Il Messaggero, 2 June 2005
 Paolo Colombo, Quattro opere per il MAXXI, Venice Biennale catalogue, Ed. Electa 2005
 Ludovico Pratesi, Fuga dalla realtà, Venice Biennale catalogue, Ed. Electa 2005
 Mariuccia Casadio, Grow a mushroom, in Vogue Italia, Sept. 2005
 Beatrice Buscaroli, Generazione invisibile, Venice Biennale catalogue, Ed. Electa 2005
 Lavinia Filippi, *Manfredi Beninati*, in Exibart on Paper, Mar. 2005
 Laura Chiari, *Un siciliano nella city (in "Londra (always) cult")*, in Next Exit, Dec. 2004
 JJ Charlesworth, *After the Flood*. In "Expander". Catalogue. London, 2004
 Riccardo Notte, *Tra senso e sensorio*. In "XIV Esposizione Quadriennale d'Arte di Roma. Anteprima", De Luca Editore, 2004
 Guida breve alla mostra, XIV Esposizione Quadriennale d'Arte di Roma. Anteprima, 2004
 Gianluca Marziani, *Uno sguardo oltre la modernità*, in Lo Specchio de La Stampa, 10 Jan. 2004
 Laura Barreca, *Generazione lo(w)-fi. Artisti italiani a "bassa fedeltà"*, in Arte e Critica, n. 38 Apr/June 2004
 Laura Barreca, *Expander alla Royal academy of Art di Londra*, in Arte e Critica, n. 40 Oct/Dec. 2004
 Emilia Giorgi in "Le Collezioni. Acquisizioni di arte contemporanea. MAXXI", 2003
 Patrizia Ferri, *Manfredi Beninati*, in Flash Art, Aug/Sept. 2003
 Lea Mattarella, *La quadriennale si veste di nuovo e si divide per tre*, in La stampa, 14 Nov. 2003
 Pier Paolo Pancotto, *Manfredi Beninati, Ricordi soffusi di paesaggi*, in L'Unità, 20 Jul. 2003
 Gianluca Marziani, *Manfredi Beninati plasma l'arte sul tavolo da cucina*, in La Stampa - Roma, 28 giugno 2003
 Ludovico Pratesi, *Quelle luci surreali sulle tele di Beninati*, in La Repubblica - Roma, 17 Jul. 2003
 Laura Barreca, in Exibart, June 2003
 Beatrice Buscaroli, Un'anteprima di pittori e di pittura, Il domenicale, 4 Mar. 2004
 Laura Barreca, *Anteprime Napoli e Torino*, in Illy.com, 2004
 Edoardo Sassi, *Voglia di installazioni*, in Corriere della Sera - Roma, 16 Nov. 2003
 Pierluigi Diaco, Maria e lo scialapopolo, Capital, 2003
 Lorcan O'Neill, *Manfredi Beninati*, in Dizionario della Giovane Arte Italiana 1, May 2003
 Gianluca Marziani, *Www.plot.@rt.*, Catalogo della mostra. Nov. 2002