

GIUSEPPE STAMPONE

Il cielo blu sopra il
Gran Sasso / Campo
Imperatore

text by
Francesca Guerisoli

29.03 - 21.04.2023

Via G. Ventura 6
Milano

The exhibition *Il cielo blu sopra il Gran Sasso / Campo Imperatore* will be accessible Monday through Friday from 11AM to 1PM and 2PM to 7PM in Via G. Ventura 6 - Milan

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From Tuesday, March 28, 2023, the spaces of **Prometeo Gallery Ida Pisani** will welcome the latest works of the artist **Giuseppe Stampone** (b. 1974, Cluses) exhibited for the first time in the project *Il cielo blu sopra il Gran Sasso / Campo Imperatore*. The exhibition, subtitled *From global to local for self-recovery* offers itself to the eye as a hymn to joy, as Francesca Guerisoli points out in her accompanying text, which Stampone dedicates to the territory where he resides, where he works and where his family comes from. The new body of artworks, which includes two vinyls, three drawings and a bic pen Blue Stampone on board, a map, sixteen photographs and a video, expresses with great vitality an affection for the local dimension, rediscovered - in the need to stop dictated by the pandemic - as a space of identity.

The artworks exhibited are made in blue and black in equal percentage. As Guerisoli points out: "Stampone employs his blue for half of the works and black for the other half with a symbolic function capable of generating another point of observation of the context dear to him, which he reinterprets here in its aesthetic dimension. Blue and black thus become tools to bring to a 'ground zero' the image of Gran Sasso, by recasting it in its landscape and naturalistic value."

Stampone charges his artistic narratives with a purely aesthetic vision that fixes images beyond their historical and cultural significance, giving wide space to the feminist dimension that belongs to the works resulting from his collaboration with Maria Crispal, artist and performer, his life partner. Thus, the video *Gran Sasso* is emblematic: while revealing the beauty and biological preciousness of the territory, it is transformed by a series of Crispal's ritual actions into a sensual and poetic journey. However, *Campo Imperatore* is not only an enchanting mountain landscape but also one of the places that marked the History of Italy during World War II. Therefore, alongside with the naturalistic narrative, Stampone engages from a historical and cultural point of view by taking as a common denominator the Abruzzo folklore, which is put in direct connection with experimentation.

«*Il cielo blu sopra il Gran Sasso / Campo Imperatore* thus represents Stampone's attempt to restore the complexity of that densely layered territory both from a naturalistic and panoramic point of view and from a historical and cultural one. The historical fact that made it known is wrapped up in the complexity defined through images. Campo Imperatore is the highest part that presents human interventions, it is the closest place to the sky».

Stampone touches the sky, and with his ink he restores, layer after layer, a visual and conceptual density that has an appendix centered on the wine culture that characterizes the area.

Giuseppe Stampone (b. 1974, Cluses) is an artist who lives and works between Teramo, Brussels and Rome.

His production ranges from multimedia installations and videos to drawings made with Bic pen, where the medium of drawing becomes a relational device at the center of community building. He is the founder of the Solstice Project (www.solstizio.org) carried out in collaboration with the European Union and developed in several countries. Since 2002, he has collaborated with artist and life partner Maria Crispal, with whom he shares the Global Education and Solstice Project. In 2021, the Bic company produced the color "Blue Stampone," dedicated to the artist for his drawings made with a Bic pen through which he investigates icons of the past and present.

Stampone teaches Painting Techniques at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna and collaborates with universities and academies such as IULM University in Milan, Federico II University in Naples, and the McLuhan Program of Culture and Technology in Toronto. He is an associate member of the American Academy of Rome and of the Civitella Ranieri Foundation of New York. In 2020, he is the first Italian winner of the residency at Villa Romana in Florence, funded by Deutsche Bank. In 2013, with *L'ABC del Bel Paese*, he won the first edition of the "Pacco d'Artista" Award, promoted by Poste Italiane, and his work was reproduced on one hundred thousand of the company's parcels.

His works have been exhibited in several international art exhibitions, museums, foundations and galleries including: "Il cielo blu sopra il Gran Sasso / Campo Imperatore", Prometeo Gallery Ida Pisani (Milan, 2023); 59th Venice Biennale, Cuban Pavilion (2022); "Personale connettivo", MAC (Lissone, 2022), curated by Francesca Guerisoli; "Nel blu dipinto", Marca Corona (Sassuolo, 2022), with a text by Leonardo Caffo; "Past to the Future", Prometeo Gallery Ida Pisani (Milan, 2022); London Drawing Biennial (2021); 17th Venice Biennale of Architecture, South Korean Pavilion (2021); Villa Romana, Florence (2021); "Due generazioni a confronto: Giuseppe Stampone e Ugo La Pietra", CIAC Museum (Foligno, 2018), curated by Giacinto Di Pietrantonio and Italo Tomassoni; "De la nature des choses", Galleria MLF (Brussels, 2018); "Precipitato formale. Giuseppe Stampone in dialogo con Jota Castro", Galleria Eduardo Secci (Florence, 2018), curated by Pietro Gaglianò; Seoul Biennale of Architecture (2017); Ostende Triennial (2017).

His works are in major international collections including: MFAH - The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; MAXXI - Museo Nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo, Rome; GAMeC - Galleria D'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Bergamo; Calcografia Nazionale - Istituto Centrale per la Grafica, Rome; Sydney Biennial; Kochi Biennial Foundation, Kerala; Wilfredo Lam Center, Havana; Artnexus Foundation, Bogotá.