

Sesto Senso Art Gallery is pleased to invite you to the opening of the exhibition *Antonio Tamburro – Caffè,* on Thursday, May 5, at 6:00 p.m., with the artist in attendance. Since the 19th century, café has always played a central role in literature, art, and culture, as a place for people to meet and exchange ideas. Consider the first historic Italian cafés, such as Florian in Venice, Pedrocchi in Padua, Michelangelo in Florence, Greco in Rome, and Gambrinus in Naples — gathering places for artists, poets, and writers. In Paris, at the height of the Romantic era and throughout the 20th century, the café became a sacred place, destined to be not only a meeting place but also a place where art is created and shared, as in the famous Café Chantant, whose celebrated figures included the "Maudits" poets and the painter Toulouse-Lautrec. The theme of cafés has always been present in Antonio Tamburro's paintings since the 1990s. The first exhibition dedicated to this theme took place in 1993 at the Ghelfi Gallery in Verona. The paintings from this period were all in oil, dominated by predominantly gray tones. The theme of cafés has been highly appreciated over the years and has since become one of the most frequent themes in his painting. In 1998, he opened a new exhibition titled *Al Caffè* at the Ghelfi Gallery. The catalog features an introduction by the critic Giuseppe Brugnoli, along with essays by Camilla Ferro, Paolo Rizzi, and Fulvio Tomizza. The catalog also includes a photo of Tamburro taken by his friend, the photographer Pino Settanni. In both his older and newer paintings, Tamburro evokes a strong sense of melancholy, introspection, emotion, and nostalgia for a time suspended in limbo. The elegant female figures who are the protagonists of these paintings are pensive, silent figures, captured by the artist at the very moment they are smoking a cigarette, drinking coffee, or resting their arm on a small table, bringing their hand to their face in a contemplative pose. Giuseppe Brugnoli wrote in the introduction to the 1998 catalog *Al Caffè*: "The various works by Antonio Tamburro (..) are images from a film made of restrained and collected emotions, of silent screams, and in this visually conveyed emotion lies their profound allure, their solitary poetry. It is a truly remarkable achievement, one in which a confident and exemplary technique is directed not toward representing a physical reality, but a moral reality— not a setting, but an atmosphere. Each of us finds ourselves, in the extreme nakedness of our own ineffable

solitude, at the heart of one or another of these paintings. ” Unlike his earlier paintings, characterized by the contrast between lighter and darker tones, between light and shadow, black and white, his new paintings are dominated by bright colors, monochromatic shades of blue, and colors that stand out on the canvas in contrast to the unmistakable grays. Tamburro’s painting is characterized by great mastery in the use of color and drawing, through which he succeeds in creating rarefied, lyrical, evocative atmospheres, in giving importance to everyday things, and in conveying a sense of wonder at ordinary things. Tamburro’s painting goes beyond “Bella pittura,” as the critic Marcello Venturoli defined it in the strict sense of the term. Camilla Ferro wrote the following in the catalog for the 1998 exhibition *Al Caffè*: “His subjects are essential; the painting and technique are at their peak, reigning supreme. On this foundation, Tamburro builds his art, eschewing technical tricks or repetitive scenes; his way of painting is straightforward, direct, and sincere. There is, so to speak, no mere display of technical virtuosity in his works: there is more—a pervasive sentiment, a lyricism that captivates and engages. Such delicacy comes from the hand of Tamburro the man, because he himself is enriched by the act of painting and thus succeeds in conveying emotions to those who view his works.”

The exhibition will run until 5 of June, 2022

Hours
Monday: 10.00 – 3.00
Tuesday – Saturday: 10.00 – 1.30, 3.00 – 7.30
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