

**THE
WHITE
SHHH
ENRICO BENETTA**

8 MAY > 14 JUNE 2015
VENICE PROJECTS FENICE GALLERY
56^{MA} Biennale Arte - Venice



BACK IN BLACK, mixed media on canvas, 200x200



KNOTS
mixed media on canvas
80x150

Detail →





ELEMENTS
wood and mixed media
iron and Murano glass
210X30 | 1

Detail →





ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS
mixed media on canvas
100X350



UNTITLED
iron and Murano glass
installation of 3 pieces
200X250 | 1

Detail →





KNOTS 1
mixed media on canvas
200X100





ANATOMIES
mixed media on canvas
200X200

Detail



UNTITLED
mixed media on canvas and steel
installation of 14 pieces
50X35 | 1

Detail





VEILED
mixed media on canvas
125x200



UNTITLED
steel
150x300



During the 56th Venice Art Biennale **Venice Projects Fenice Gallery** will host “The White Shhh”, a solo exhibition by **Enrico Benetta**, featuring a selection of the artist's latest work.

Galleria Tornabuoni Arte of Florence and **Galleria Russo** of Rome, for the very first time in a joint exhibition, will offer a preview of Benetta's more interesting work from his most recent creative period in preparation for a series of shows to be held at their respective locations abroad.

Following “Dandelion”, a major solo sponsored by The Benetton Foundation at Palazzo Bomben in Treviso in September 2014, Benetta has developed his personal interpretation of the word and the Bodoni typeface, which are characteristic of all his work, by subtraction. Paintings, sculptures and large installations at the solo in Treviso represented the culmination of a fourteen-year long journey where the word, matched with the hues and the three-dimensional qualities of iron and steel, took center stage and acquired a generative force.

Benetta's new creative period emphasizes the significance of silence, of whispered words, of what is not said, that sometimes being more effective than a statement.

Tones and colors have changed, with novel black and white combinations deriving from shades of gray.

Now color and veiled Bodoni typefaces provoke more profound reflections and meditations on the meaning of pause, of void, of a drastic toning down of any form of communication.

Benetta conducts his enquiry on the eloquence of silence in the form of an interior journey, touching on spiritual areas where one can find those very elements that matter for the individual but which ultimately define a society.

And there comes a moment when lights go out. Silence falls. Colors are not perceived in their bright daylight intensity. Voices grow faint and shadows cover all surfaces. Space is taken over by a dark veil. Night descends.

This exhibition, curated by Chiara Casarin, is like an oasis where art is fueled by a deep silence that communicates through large painting and sculpture installations, asking the visitor to stop for a moment and afford the luxury of enjoying the silence.

Enrico Benetta's latest art production is an enquiry on the expressive power of silence. Beyond the commonplace opinion of art as an unceasing, at times deafening and shocking, means of communication, silence can be visual, not necessarily acoustic. The artist's sculptures and canvases reveal silence by subtraction, akin to lowering the volume after much talking, to a whisper in chamber chatter that suddenly draws the crowd's full attention.

Enrico Benetta has dedicated his life to the free interpretation of the Bodoni typeface, to its dynamics of expression both as a script in pictorial composition and as result of formal study, making its elements an integral part of his canvases and steel sculptures. Though unwilling and unable to do without this specific trait of his natural creative talent, Benetta's enquiry into the effects of the barely hinted word is only a recent endeavor. In taking the long road to silence, Benetta brings to light quietness, reflection, profoundness of thought, the calm of meditation. Colors, too, go through a necessary metamorphosis, take on fainter hues, turn white, black and vibrate in the infinite shades of gray and the colorations of steel, mesh and concrete.

Enrico Benetta's exhibition for the 2015 Venice Art Biennale is the first to be hosted in the new **Venice Projects Fenice Gallery** by Berengo Studio 1989. The newly designed location was made possible by **Berengo Foundation**, again this year at the forefront of the Venice Art Biennale with Glasstress. The solo exhibitions schedule, curated by Chiara Casarin, will alternate domestic and international artists and designers showing their unseen work. For the event, Enrico Benetta has created glass sculptures at the Berengo furnace in Murano that will be on preview at “**The White Shhh**” exhibition.

Too many ‘words’ get in the way of perceiving what dwells in the artist's mind, what he presents to the world to stimulate reflection. A true artist's work tells of all and to all walks of life. It can achieve this without being loud, by evoking and alluding with elegance. The show is in praise of silence, an introspective exercise, a meditation on art and humankind that enters all of us with a whisper. A breath oscillating from white to black through shades of gray that grow dense and physical, crude and vibrant. We each can find something that reminds us of ourselves, like a mirror reflecting what is in our hearts.

Chiara Casarin

tornabuoniArte

Firenze Milano Portofino Forte dei Marmi

GALLERIA D'ARTE
dal 1898 **Russo**
ROMA - ISTANBUL

ANTONY HOTEL
ANTONY PALACE HOTEL
VILLA FIORITA

bhb
BIG HOUSE BROTHERS

“The White Shhh. Enrico Benetta”
Curated by Chiara Casarin
www.enricobenetta.com