

NOVO

Press Release

Sfiorare Fantasmi **Bea Bonafini**

Curated by
Edoardo Monti

Solo show

Dates: September 9 – November 6 2021

Opening: Thursday, September 9, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm

From **September 9 to November 6 2021**, **NOVO** is pleased to present "**Sfiorare Fantasmi**" (Brush against Ghosts), the first solo show **in Florence** of **Bea Bonafini**. **Curated by Edoardo Monti**, the exhibition explores the latest representations by the Italian artist through the different media distinguishing her practice.

Drawing from mythology, fantasy and folk-tales, the body of works presented in the show mixes different techniques and materials, such as drawing, handmade tapestry, ceramic and cork, unveiling the coexistence of new material possibilities with craftsmanship within Bea Bonafini's artefacts.

The viewer is confronted with aquatic creatures, dissolving bodies and hybrid shapes – an imagery populated by water fairies as much as grotesque characters resembling medieval tarots. Those of Bea Bonafini are ambiguous figures, fluid in their gender connotation, and sometimes zoomorphic - evanescent silhouettes that recall the magical, encouraging us to investigate the most transcendent dimension of universal human experiences.

The images are fragmented, - like in the cork works, where the color sections are carefully cut out and then reintegrated within the composition, or in the big tapestry piece *Face of the Deep I* (2021), conceived as if it was a textile collage – they melt, losing the boundaries of their bodily presence, and collide.

Personal and collective narratives are intertwined, as well as enchantment and reality, spirituality and transcendent, creating a space of almost mystic encounters, where we can only *brush against ghosts* without being able to grasp them: close enough to be fascinated by this world without being scared.

Edoardo Monti is the founder of Palazzo Monti in Brescia and curator.

Bea Bonafini (1990, Bonn, Germany) lives and works in London. She studied at the Royal College of Art and the Slade School of Fine Art in London. The multidisciplinary practice of the Italian artist draws from oneiric visions, overlapping personal and ancient mythologies. It explores possibilities and interactions between painting, tapestry and sculpture. Holistic perspectives develop in close dialogue with architecture, where works expand in space. Her installations, acting as protected spheres, operate as openings into encounters between the earthly reality and another world. Her works have been exhibited at Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Guarene (2020); Mana Contemporary, New Jersey (2020); Villa La Berlugane, Beaulieu-sur-Mer (2020); Operativa, Rome (2020); British School at Rome, Rome (2020, 2019); Chloé Salgado, Paris (2019); Bosse & Baum, London (2019); MAC - Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Lissone (2018); Renata Fabbri, Milan (2018); Zabłudowicz Collection, London (2017).

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