

Arte in Salotto

DI CAMILLA PRINI

PRESS RELEASE

TOMMASO OTTIERI

Tommaso Ottieri presents his new works

at Arte in Salotto – Figurative Contemporary Art by Camilla Prini

October 7 – November 14, 2025

Via Milazzo 6 – 20121, Milan

Arte in Salotto celebrates the talent of Neapolitan painter Tommaso Ottieri (1971), on view with around twenty previously unseen works.

Alongside his most famous cityscapes, which have brought him recognition in Italy and abroad, Ottieri presents new works from the “Mise en Abyme” cycle.

Ottieri’s gaze expands to embrace the city as a whole, a living organism that changes and transforms day by day. The artist’s expressive language masterfully captures lights and shadows in the great urban centers of the world.

Not only cities, but also theaters captivate the viewer’s gaze. Above all, the Teatro alla Scala, which Ottieri captures on panel with a striking display of red and gold.

Mise en Abyme is a narrative device, first used by André Gide. In figurative art, it can be interpreted as a fragment of the image in which the viewer literally slips into an “abyss” where, in a flash-like instant, the entire poetics and synopsis of the painting are revealed—even unconsciously. In the same way, a single painting may contain the narrative meaning of the entire cycle of works presented in the exhibition.

In these panels, Ottieri intersects interiors and perspective views to reinforce the bond—always present in his painting—between the aesthetic value of built space and the ethical value of the human. Interiors appear mostly as intimate voids, filled with soft light. Exteriors, although equally deserted, retain the splendor of the public sphere. The underlying principle of this new series of paintings is that the two voids are of different natures.

“When I look at my new paintings, I realize how often an object out of context has served as a mechanism to trigger a surrealist vision. Among the mists of mountain forests or the crashing waves of nighttime storms, I imagine objects sparkling with light. It is a very simple vision, yet a very powerful one.”

— Tommaso Ottieri

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