

# Velasco Vitali

## 1960, Bellano (Lecco)

# Biography

The beginning was marked by the meeting with Giovanni Testori and the participation in the Artists and Writers exhibition at the Rotonda della Besana in Milan. After few personal exhibitions, his attention focused on the tragedy that destroyed part of Valtellina valley at the end of the 1980s. The paintings created were shown in *Paesaggio Cancellato*, an exhibition curated by Roberto Tassi (1990).

At the end of the nineties he was invited to the Rome Quadrennial and in those years he began an artistic journey on the ports of the Mediterranean and southern Italy: from this perspective *Isolitudine* with Ferdinando Scianna was born in 2000 and *MIXtura* with Franco Battiato in 2003.

In 2004 Electa published *Velasco 20*, a monograph on the first twenty years of work with contribution from Giulio Giorello. *Extramoenia* (2004-2005) is an exhibition commissioned by the Sicily Region, set up in Palermo (Palazzo Belmonte Riso) and Milan (Palazzo della Ragione). In 2005 it became part of the collection of the MACRO in Rome. Subsequently, *Immagine, Forme e Natura delle Alpi* (2007) and *LATO4* (2008) were curated by Danilo Eccher. Fernando Mazzocca and Francesco Poli curated *Sbarco* (2010), set up in Piazza Duomo and in the complex of Sant'Agostino in Pietrasanta and in Milan in Piazza Duca D'Aosta and Palazzo Reale.

In 2011 he was invited to the Italian Pavilion of the Venice Biennale where he exhibited *Veidrodís*, the LKFF Gallery in Brussels hosted his solo show *Branco*, and *Apriti Cielo* was published by Skira – a volume which collects watercolors on the theme of the sacred: among these there are some of the drawings created for the cultural pages of *Il Corriere della Sera*, with which he has collaborated since 2007.

In 2012 he created *Foresta Rossa*, an artistic intervention on Isola Madre (Stresa) and in Verbania, curated by Luca Molinari. The reflection on ghost cities already at the basis of this latest installation continues the following year with the solo exhibition *Foresta Rossa: 416 ghost cities in the world* at the Triennale di Milano, curated by Luca Molinari and Francesco Clerici. In 2013 he proposed three new monumental sculpture projects: *Aria* at the LKFF Gallery in Brussels, *Branco* curated by Flavio Arensi at the Vittoriale degli Italiani and *Medi Terraneo* at the *Ruffo Castle* in Scilla.

In 2014 he exhibited the sculpture *Traditio Symboli* in the Milan Cathedral and participated in the IV Gherdeina Sculpture Biennial in Ortisei, Val Gardena.

In February 2015 he was invited to the Berlinale (winner of the FIPRESCI award) as producer and protagonist of the documentary *Il Gesto Delle Mani* directed by Francesco Clerici which portrays him during the execution of a bronze sculpture. In June of the same year, at the invitation of Emilio Mazzoli, he returned to exhibit in the gallery, with the exhibition *FUGA* (curated by Mark Gisbourne and Giacinto di Pietrantonio), at the Galleria Mazzoli in Modena.

In 2017 he curated and designed (with the collaboration of Peter Greenaway) the exhibition *Time Out* dedicated to Giancarlo Vitali at Palazzo Reale, Castello Sforzesco, Museum of Natural History and Casa del Manzoni. 2019 saw the *Veduta* project, curated by Danilo Eccher, at the M77 Gallery in Milan, in the same year he proposed the *Branco* installation in the Royal Court of the Reggia di Venaria in Turin and in 2020 in collaboration with Arte Sella and the Mart of Rovereto he designed for the museum's sculpture park and in Castel Ivano (TN) the *monument to resistance*. This year the work *Sbarco* is present in two different versions at the new PART museum in Rimini and at the Mole Vanvitelliana in Ancona.

Between 2020 and 2021 he presented the *Goldwatch* painting installation with a double exhibition at the Assab One gallery in Milan and the Circolo space in Bellano and collaborated with the Giovanni Falcone Foundation in Palermo for the *Spazi Capaci - Comunità Capaci* project curated by Alessandro De Lisi with a monumental intervention in the bunker room of the Ucciardone prison.

In 2023 the Taobuk Festival in Taormina (Sicily) includes the solo show *Le Grand Bleu* curated by Luca Beatrice. Subsequently, at the invitation of Vincenzo Trione, collaborates with a group of students from the IULM University of the Master's Degree in Art on a shared curatorial project, which leads up to a large personal exhibition entitled *Listen Better*.

In Milan, in 2024 he presents a new series of abstract-geometric paintings *Terra Rossa* at the Antonia Jannone Gallery, with reference to Kazimir Malevič's *Red Square*. Since summer 2024 the monumental sculpture *Sabir* has been part of the permanent collection of the Arte Sella sculpture park in Trentino Alto Adige.