

Bertozzi&Casoni, Nicola Bolla and Tania Pistone

1 May - 2 June 2012



Robilant+Voena are pleased to present an exhibition at their London gallery dedicated to three artists at the forefront of Italian contemporary art: Nicola Bolla, Tania Pistone and the duo Bertozzi&Casoni. Brought together by their astonishing visual impact, the works go hand in hand due to their technical originality and profound underlying philosophies.

Bertozzi&Casoni began working together in 1980 and, after years of joint study in the field of *maioliche*, the duo began to experiment with ever-increasing bravura, leading first to works of formidable scale (such as those executed for the Tama municipality of Tokyo) and then those with ever more realism and cutting irony.

In this exhibition we find works such as *Gadget Pubblicitario Meraviglioso* in which 7-punctata ladybirds, believed to bring good luck, sit on a mound of bones laid out in the manner of a memento; or *Lapsus* in which a small chameleon gazes curiously into an aged boxed containing a pistol, hand grenade and filthy remnants of food that appear to have been abandoned carelessly by someone.

The fragility of the ceramics connect with that of life, while at the same time the lively subjects portrayed by Bertozzi&Casoni appear to be laughing at us. They attempt also to deceptively distract our attention from the most disturbing elements that constitute true and realistic Memento Mori.

Tania Pistone presents a selection of her latest works, mixed-media pieces, in which rock crystal plays a dominant role. Believed since antiquity to possess magical qualities, the artist uses the quartz to create a connection between colour and the written word, combining in a journey of purification, in which light establishes a new human harmony. Amongst the works exhibited are also some examples of the *Stahler* series and other canvas such as *Kamala e Ges*.



Bertozzi&Casoni, *Meraviglioso*,
Ceramica policroma



Bertozzi&Casoni, *Lapsus*
Ceramica policroma



Tania Pistone, *Strahler III*
Cristallo di rocca, acrilico e testo su legno

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The works of Nicola Bolla utilise playing cards and Swarovski crystals, an unusual medium in art, to create a new medium that by itself transmits a new meaning to the viewer.

Objects such as the Kalashnikovs of *Vanitas War* are realised entirely in Swarovski crystals, set in a thin layer on the casing, that create a sensation of stupor over the viewer but also provoke a natural refusal caused by the provocative pairing of beauty and death.

Seemingly ordinary objects, created out of unusual materials, generate a feeling of displacement and offer a point of departure that invites the viewer to consider the true significance.



Nicola Bolla, *Vanitas War*
Cristalli Swarovski e metallo



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